



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Though it's taking a little longer than they would like, Marc and Anne Feder, and daughter Talia, 2½, are confident they will soon find a buyer for their three-bedroom Marina-style house on 26th Street. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

Whole Foods Offers Tuesday Grocery Trips

By Corrie M. Anders

Whole Foods Market introduced itself to Noe Valley this month by starting a free shuttle service that will ferry grocery shoppers to its Potrero Hill store while the defunct Bell Market is under renovation.

The once-a-week service, set to begin March 3, will operate Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A 13-passenger van will make a continuous loop, picking up shoppers in front of Bell at 3950 24th Street and taking them to the Potrero Hill location at 450 Rhode Island Street.

At a public forum last month, Whole Foods executives said a second day could be added to the Tuesday schedule if there was a crush of shoppers who wanted the service.

"If demand is great, we'll be happy to revisit that," said Joe Rogoff, a regional vice president with the Texas-based grocer, known for its organic and gourmet product lines.

In addition, home delivery may be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

City College Decides to Return To the Castro

By Corrie M. Anders

Ten years after establishing a popular satellite campus at James Lick Middle School, City College of San Francisco is leaving Noe Valley for its former home in the Castro District.

Starting June 16 with the summer session, students will attend classes at Everett Middle School, located at 450 Church Street. May 22 is the last day for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

The State of the Housing Market: Slow

Noe Valley Home Prices Decline in Fourth Quarter

By Corrie M. Anders

When Marc and Anne Feder put their 26th Street home on the market, the couple hoped it would sell quickly, though probably not at the warp speed with which they bought it five years ago.

The "For Sale" sign went up in late January. Since then, a steady parade of prospects has toured the Marina-style home, with its renovated kitchen, manicured back yard, two-car garage, and separate in-law suite.

But the \$1,349,000 property has yet to

attract an acceptable offer—a reflection of the new realities in Noe Valley's once red-hot housing market.

A year ago, "I think it would have flown off the market. It would have been a two-week experience," said Marc Feder. "We've had lots of people through, but I think everyone is a little gun-shy."

The landscape has indeed changed in our hilly haven of million-dollar homes. Real estate agents acknowledge that housing prices have declined, albeit modestly compared to other areas, and that the overbidding frenzy has abated.

And it's not just homebuyers who have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

New Rec Center Experiencing Growing Pains

By Andrea Aranda

The sparkling new Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center has seismically fit indoor facilities, a dog run with a water fountain, and an outdoor playground that would make any child's eyes grow as big as saucers. It also has a few weeds of controversy that have tempered some residents' enjoyment of the renovated facility at Day and Sanchez streets.

Parents complain that they and their children have only limited access to the center, which reopened in September following a two-year \$11.6 million renovation. At the old center, neighbors could

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Secondhand News: Consignment Stores Alive and Well in Noe Valley

By Lorraine Sanders

Like many others who have gone before him, Jacob Goldstein moved to San Francisco for love. Little did he know that his world would soon turn to junk.

"I moved up here for this girl, and she needed a coffee table," Goldstein says as he begins to explain the story behind the Garage Sale Store, the Sanchez Street consignment shop he opened in January after relocating to Noe Valley from San Diego last fall.

The search for that coffee table led the entrepreneur—who also happens to be a



Jacob Goldstein's Garage Sale Store on Sanchez Street may be the perfect antidote to the recession. Like other consignment shops in the neighborhood, the store is experiencing an influx of customers who want to buy, sell, or recycle their possessions. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

Contents

Books to Read	45
Calendar	30
Class Ads	52-53
Cost of Living in Noe	19
Crime Beat	21
Crossword	13
The Last Page	60
Groups to Join	57
Neighborhood Services	50-51
Rumors Behind the News	55
Short Takes	23-27
School Report	47
Staff	6
Store Trek	35

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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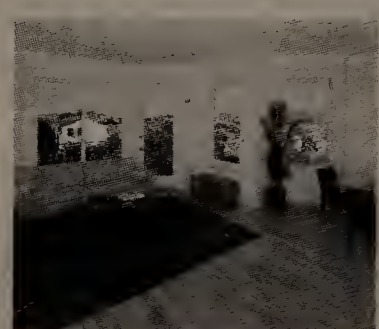
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—R.C., San Francisco

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LETTERS 42¢



Julissa Chavez, Jimmy Cowen, and Cliff Meyers pose for customers on their last day at Bell Market. Photo courtesy Erin Boylan

Thank You, Bell Market Gang

Editor:

I just wanted to extend my thanks to all of the great employees at Bell Market. I've shopped at Bell all of my adult life and thought of many employees as friends. It is also the place where my son had his first job. Again, I want to send out a huge THANK YOU. We will miss you all.

Erin Boylan

Don't Can the Recycling Center

Editor:

In reading the December issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*, I was saddened to read about the closing of Bell Market but excited to read about the opening of Whole Foods Market in its place. As a longtime resident of Noe Valley, I look forward to shopping at the store.

I would like to suggest that Whole Foods keep the recycling center that is in front of Bell, as I believe it is a valuable service. The recycling center provides

neighborhood residents the opportunity to have their children learn about recycling as well as earn some cash at the same time. It also gives others who gather bags and shopping carts of recyclable bottles and aluminum cans a place to drop off their materials. In a small way, they help keep 24th Street a bit cleaner as they pick up the bottles and cans and bring them to the recycling facility.

While there will be those who might prefer not to have the facility, I believe it is important for both Whole Foods and the neighborhood to demonstrate compassion for those who are struggling. Being able to see the need firsthand is important. They are people first and deserve to be treated as such, not shunned or diverted to other neighborhoods.

Greg Marutani
22nd Street

Priest's Divisive Message

Editor:

We were shocked to read about Father Tony La Torre's suggested boycott of Just for Fun for selling Obama "devotional" candles ["Obama Icon Raises the Ire of Local Pastor," February 2009 *Voice*]. It's sad that so unifying a figure as President Obama should be the occasion for so divisive a message. Father La Torre's insistence that Just for Fun is a Jewish business (despite the evidence to the contrary) suggests that he has a more sinister agenda than simply urging Catholics to "stand up for their faith." Father La Torre would do well to examine his own conduct before accusing others of being "bigoted" and "hateful."

Jane Kenner
Neil Morse
Noe Valley residents for 32 years

Would Candles Offend Jesus?

Editor:

As a practicing Catholic (*not* at St. Philip's) and a Noe Valleyan, I am disgusted by Father Tony's directive to his parishioners to boycott Just for Fun. Does he seriously think Jesus would be offended by the Obama icons?

He says the store's owners are "bigoted and hateful," but he might examine his own conscience in that regard. He counsels us to take action that hurts our neighbors who are struggling to survive. How Christian is that?

Furthermore, how can he think he speaks for anyone other than himself? We "latte liberals" do not take too kindly to being told what to think and where to shop. We like to think we make those decisions for ourselves, based on our own values. Being told who to disrespect just galls me!

Finally, if attendance at mass is off, maybe Father Tony could try out a more positive message!

Lee Bender

OPEN LETTER

A Few Words About the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library

When I was a little girl, going to the library was like going through the looking glass. Like Alice, I was entering a wonderful world of unknown possibilities. It always smelled good, and it provided a quiet haven from the noise of New York City streets. I would stand at the A's and dream about reading every book, one by one, right through the alphabet. And the librarian had this most marvelous pencil. It had on its end a stamp with a date on it, which the librarian would deftly use by turning the pencil over and stamping the due date on the inside cover of the book. I wanted to be a librarian and have a pencil like that.

No date stamps anymore, but the library is still full of wonder, and it fills me with the same joyous anticipation that it did so long ago.

We have a beautiful library in Noe Valley, one of 27 neighborhood libraries in San Francisco. Ours has a garden space in the back; you can get involved in the planting. Call the library to find out how. On Sunday, March 8, there will be a celebration to mark the one year our library has been open since renovation. Please come; there will be entertainment and food.

The head librarian at our Noe Valley branch is Alice McCloud. She would love to see the community room used by more groups, especially those in our neighborhood. Would you like to conduct a workshop, teach a class, lead a discussion group, or start a book club? The meeting room is available at no cost for these activities.

If you have suggestions about books, magazines, DVDs, or music CDs to add to the collection at our library, please make your wishes known to Alice. Keep in mind that our branch is small, and there is a limited amount of space, but the San Francisco Library has everything—the whole world—and it is always available to everyone with a library card.

Nina Youkelson
24th Street

Editor's Note: A library tour, jazz, prizes, and a "Music Jam with Dylan" will highlight the March 8 one-year anniversary celebration at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey Street. The party runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m. For information about this event or other library services, see our More Books to Read column or call the branch at 355-5707.

Beyond the Pale

Editor:

While supporting the ability to criticize the actions of others, I was truly disturbed with the tactics Father La Torre chose to use to condemn Just for Fun. There simply is no place to incite people by scapegoating members of any group. The fact that Father La Torre (mistakenly) claimed the alleged heretics were Jews, during a period when the Church reconciled with a bishop who claimed the Holocaust never happened, is beyond the pale. His teflon explanation lacks leadership and wholly fails to build any bridge to understanding or empathy.

Jake Schwarz
Clipper Street

Engulfed in David Sedaris

Editor:

[In response to "What's It Like to Be Best Friends with David Sedaris?" in the December 2008 *Voice*]

What an honor for Veronica Ruedrich—to know she can make David Sedaris laugh. I so love his writings. They have brought me such joy and release from the world so many times in my life. I first picked up his book *Barrel Fever* in Washington, D.C., in 1994. Fell madly in love. Laughed at the DMV while reading it and was questioned for my sobriety. I have bought his books as gifts for everyone I loved and adored because it was the eas-

iest way in the world to show them love and offer them laughter.

I bought his latest book [*When You Are Engulfed in Flames*]. Then I listened to an MP3 of it with my 79-year-old parents. During the "Hugh's mother had a worm in her leg" episode, I had to pull over to the side of the road because my mom was wetting her pants from laughter. Later, we softly teared up with Sedaris' story about Hugh and his "dream world" about leaving him until he realized just how much he needed him and loved him. My husband and I have done the same thing on a weekly basis for 14 years and will hopefully never leave for the same reasons. We need each other too much.

Thank you for this story. It made me so happy. To Veronica: I am so glad you have him as a friend.

Noel Wilkerson Holmes

Hate Speech

Editor:

You should do a story on Noe Valley resident Stephen Fowler's appearance on ABC's *Wife Swap* and how he's helped to reaffirm the stereotypical San Francisco elitist, hate America, hate the military, and hate the Midwest or flyover country. Perhaps this nation would be better off if the entire Bay Area just went away.

David Bordelon
Eight-year veteran of the U.S. Navy

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. E-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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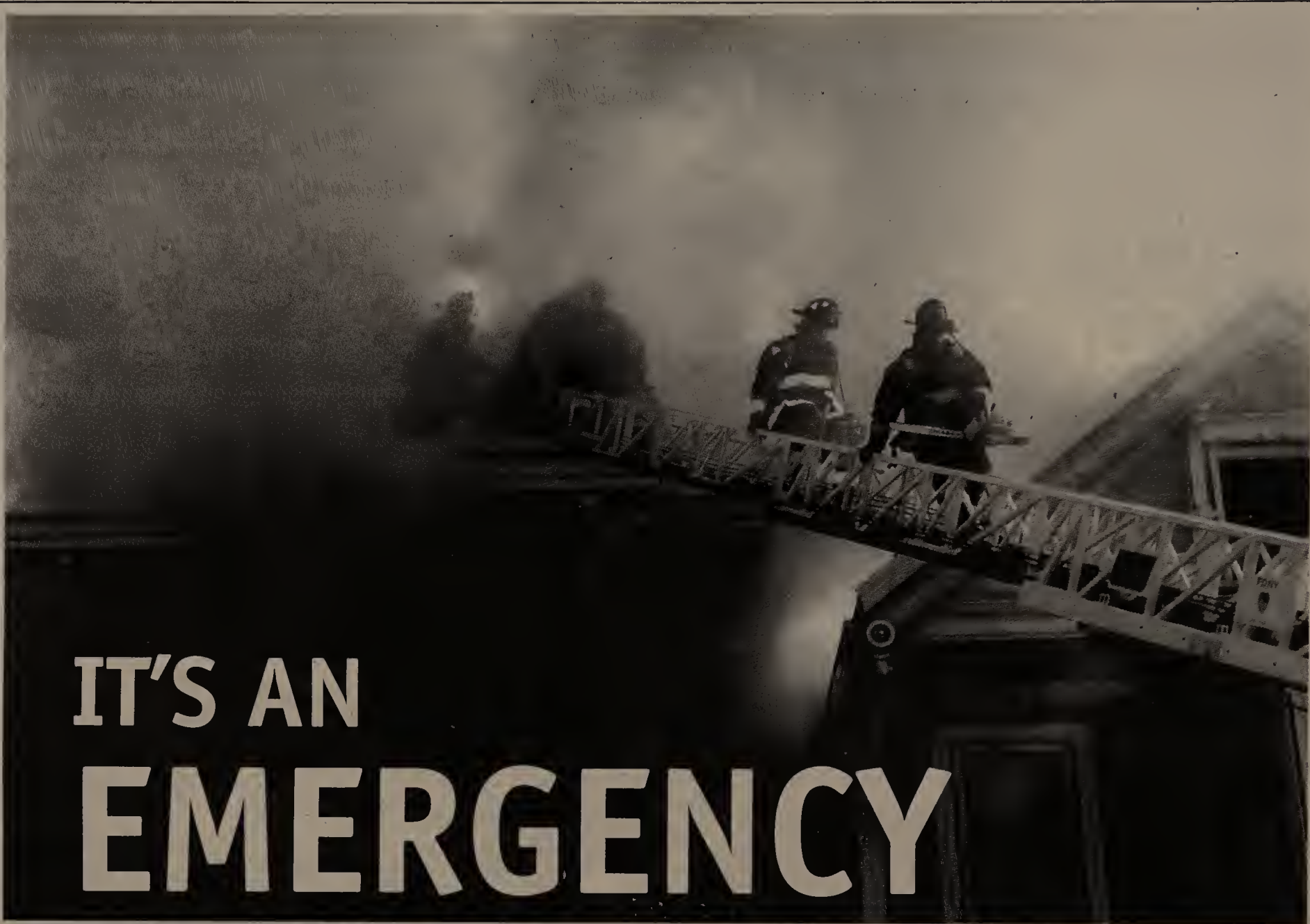
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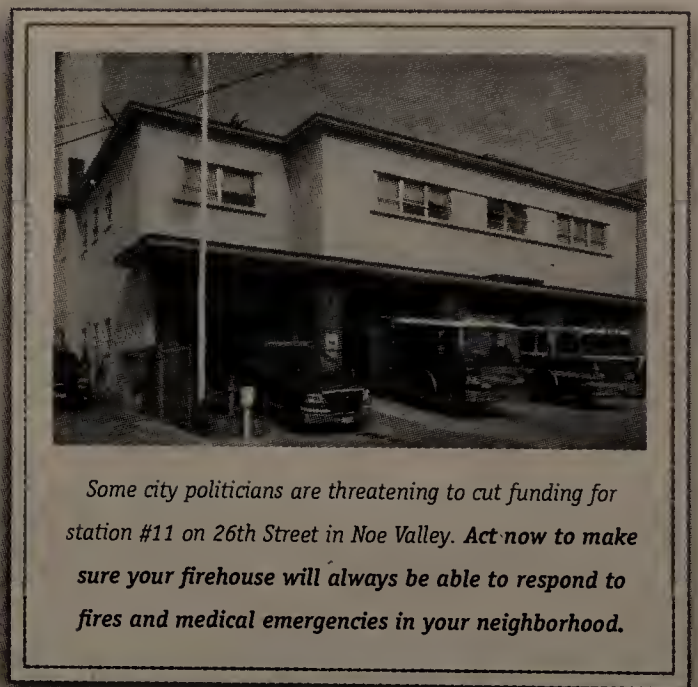
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Mortgage Crisis Drags Down Local Home Prices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the edge. The rising spiral in rental housing prices has stalled—and renters searching today are finding that some apartments cost less than they did a year ago.

When roses were in bloom, Noe Valley's enclave of well-paid high-tech workers, young mothers, and white-collar professionals seemed immune to the nation's economic woes, precipitated in late 2007 by a sharp rise in debts and foreclosures.

However, the shadow of the country's financial crisis started to fall over Noe Valley last autumn after several major banks collapsed and the stock market began a decline that wiped out billions of dollars in wealth.

"We had a tough October, November, and December, and everything seemed to come to a standstill," said local real estate agent Peter Brannigan of Brown & Co.

Veteran Noe Valley real estate agent B.J. Droubi estimates that home values have undergone a 10 percent decline since last fall. Even so, she called that drop "very lucky compared to the rest of the city and the country," where values have plunged precipitously.

Lowest Sales Since 1988

A real estate research firm reported that both home values and total sales stumbled during the fourth quarter of last year in Noe Valley's two zip codes, 94114 and 94131.

Prices fell 7.7 percent to \$1,310,500 from \$1,420,500 in the 94114 zip code during the last three months of 2008 compared to a year earlier, according to MDA DataQuick of San Diego. Twenty-two detached homes sold in 94114 during the period, compared to 48 sales a year ago.

In the 94131 zip code, values dropped by a more modest 1.1 percent to \$840,000 from \$849,000. Buyers purchased 42 homes in the fourth quarter of last year, a 17.6 percent slide from 51 sales a year earlier.

"The resale house sales in both zips during the fourth quarter of 2008 were record lows for any quarter in our data back to 1988," when the firm began keeping records, said DataQuick analyst Andrew LePage.

Condos Quiet Too

Condo sales also dried up. The sale of 27 condos in the fourth quarter was 52.6 percent under the 57 closings a year earlier in the 94114 zip code. Prices dropped 5.6 percent to \$823,500 from \$872,500.

The 94131 zip code saw condo sales decline 40.9 percent to 13 from 22 a year earlier. However, the \$749,000 average price tag in 2008 was 14.4 percent higher than the \$655,000 recorded in the last quarter of 2007.



The housing market in Noe Valley has been so pokey lately, you may still be able to buy this castle at the corner of Castro and Elizabeth streets. The two-unit property went on the market in February with an asking price of \$1.4 million.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

The last quarter of the year also saw fewer million-dollar home sales by nearly half in the two zip codes. DataQuick said 59 homes that cost \$1 million or more changed hands, compared to 114 such sales during the 2007 period, when luxury home sales remained robust.

Despite the dismal fourth-quarter—from a homeowner's perspective—real estate agents expressed optimism that the housing market would perk up as the spring home-buying season got under way.

"There's a ton of money out there waiting," said Susan Ring, an agent with Alan Pinel Realtors, who is trying to sell a \$1,295,000 home on Beacon Street. "People are taking longer to make a move....They aren't just jumping into anything."

Gone Are the Bidding Wars

There wasn't a waiting game when the Feders purchased their home in 2004, near the peak of the real estate market. The couple had already been outbid on five other homes when they saw the 26th Street property and rushed to grab the three-bedroom, two-bath house. They were among 32 frantic bidders at the time, but they were victorious in landing the house for \$986,000.

"It was such a surreal experience," recalled Marc Feder, 41, a principal in a San Francisco mediation firm. "It was certainly crazy."

Now the couple, along with their 21/2-year-old daughter Talia, want to move to the East Bay so they can be closer to Anne's family and to Anne's job as a project manager at Oakland's Kaiser Hospital, where she is a registered nurse.

"I'd be concerned if ours was the only house not selling," Marc Feder said. "I don't see a lot of houses selling. People are apprehensive."

Like many Noe Valley home sellers, the Feders have dropped their price once—by \$50,000—according to their agent, Ron Abta of TRI Coldwell Banker.

Abta said the house had gotten two offers, "but they've been well below the asking price. The sellers said, 'No thanks, we'll just wait.'"

In the current climate, Abta said, "buyers are digging in their heels and they're feeling more emboldened than they ever have in the last five years. They're starting to flex their muscle."

'I Can't Afford That, Darling'

The stock market collapse also has crimped how much homebuyers can afford. Droubi said financial setbacks forced one woman and her husband to stop looking in the \$2.3 million range and shop for homes costing \$1 million less.

"Her dad was buying her a house...and his account went down enough that he said, 'I can't afford to buy that house anymore, darling,'" Droubi said. "We had that happen twice."

Linda Gordon of Sotheby's International Realty said homes costing \$1.5 million or less are selling better than more expensive properties. But she said it was critical for all sellers to set the proper price for their homes.

She cited the example of a condominium in a 21st Street complex that originally sold for \$627,000 in 1998 and resold two years later for \$1.1 million. The condo was listed for sale in September for \$1,495,000, reduced to \$1,395,000 in October, cut to \$1,295,000 in November, and later pruned to \$1,249,000.

The price for the condo, already four months on the market, was slashed in January to \$1,195,000, she said.

Roofs Being Repaired

In today's softer market, buyers are making offers below the listing price—and asking sellers for concessions they wouldn't have dreamed of demanding in the boom market.

"If they find an imperfection, they want to negotiate" and ask sellers to pay for such items as roof repairs, said Ran-

dall Kostick, general manager at Zephyr Real Estate. That's a stark contrast to three years ago when sellers said, "I've got a bad roof and that's the way it is, and the buyer would buy with a bad roof."

Kostick said home sellers "are starting to realize and come to terms with the fact that the market isn't what it used to be." Setting the right price has become critical, "and that wasn't the case two years ago."

And if they can't get their price, some frustrated sellers remove their home from the market.

"People are changing their minds about selling," said Droubi. "They're saying, I'm going to wait for a better time to sell, or if I can't get my price I'm going to rent it."

Noe Valley Still in Demand

In spite of the weaker activity, buyers are still in the market for a home in Noe Valley. Ones with all the bells and whistles—great location, garage parking, remodeled kitchen, bamboo floors—go first.

"If it's in good shape and turnkey-ready, people are going to want it," Ring said.

Brannigan concurred: "I've had three or four recent situations where I've had multiple offers, but those were keenly sought after."

Open house tours are starting to attract larger numbers of potential buyers, and "we haven't seen that in a while," Kostick said. "I feel like we're turning a corner here. We're feeling really good about the spring, and let's see how the summer goes."

"I feel positive about it," said Gordon. "Hope springs eternal."

Rents Negotiable

The limping economy has also had an impact on the amount on rents landlords can charge, according to several property management representatives.

"I am getting slightly less than I used to," said J.J. Panzer, a broker and property manager with Real Management Company on Castro Street. "I used to get euphorically great rents. Now, it's pretty darn good, not euphoric."

For example, Panzer said current tenants in a 24th Street apartment building are paying \$2,000 a month for one-bedroom units. After a recent vacancy last month, he could only re-rent the unit for \$1,900.

In another case, Joan Cooper of the Rental Source listed a remodeled two-bedroom flat on 23rd Street for \$2,795. She dropped the price twice last month in \$100 increments to \$2,595—and was still awaiting a renter at press time.

Cooper said landlords today are open to negotiating with prospective tenants.

"If you have a good candidate for a rental and they want to negotiate a little bit, I say negotiate," Cooper said. "[But] I don't think tenants should give landlords insulting offers."



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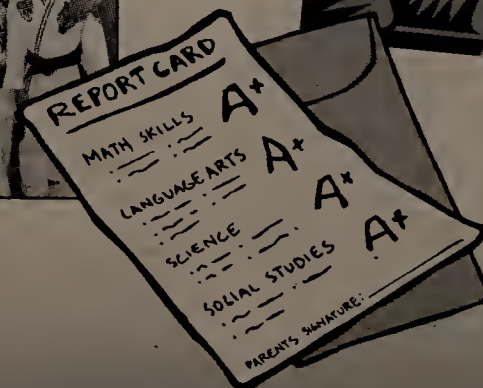
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Whole Foods Begins Shoppers Shuttle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

available when the 24th Street Whole Foods opens, which could be as early as Sept. 1.

"I'm not committing to it today, but [home delivery] is something that I would like to do here," Rogoff said. "We are actively looking at it in this neighborhood, and I think we probably will."

Rogoff and two other Whole Foods representatives offered a smorgasbord of information about the new store during a Feb. 18 town hall meeting at St. Philip's Church. The Noe Valley Democratic Club sponsored the event, which drew a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 people.

The meeting came a day before the San Francisco Planning Commission unanimously approved a special permit to allow the chain to move into Bell, which closed Feb. 15 after a 40-year run. Whole Foods was scheduled to start its \$5 million renovation in mid-March.

'Whole Paycheck'?

Whole Foods is renowned for its organic and preservative-free products—as well as its high prices.

"I'll say it before any of you do: 'Whole Paycheck,'" joked Rogoff, drawing hearty laughter from the crowd.

Rogoff tried to dispel worries from several questioners who feared that the store—which would be the only full-service grocery in Noe Valley—would be too costly for seniors and families on fixed incomes.

In a storewide comparison of all goods, he said Whole Foods' groceries were 25 percent less expensive than Bell's and that its standard produce was a surprising 38 percent cheaper.

"Meats were similarly priced, but the quality is completely different," he said.

Whole Foods' organic produce costs more than Bell's nonorganic produce, he said, but his store is "competitively priced" in a comparison of organic to organic produce.

"You pay for what you get," he said. "We are not going to apologize for our merchandise."

Rogoff told one questioner that Whole Foods does not plan to offer a senior discount, as Bell Market did on Tuesdays when it gave older shoppers a 5 percent price break.

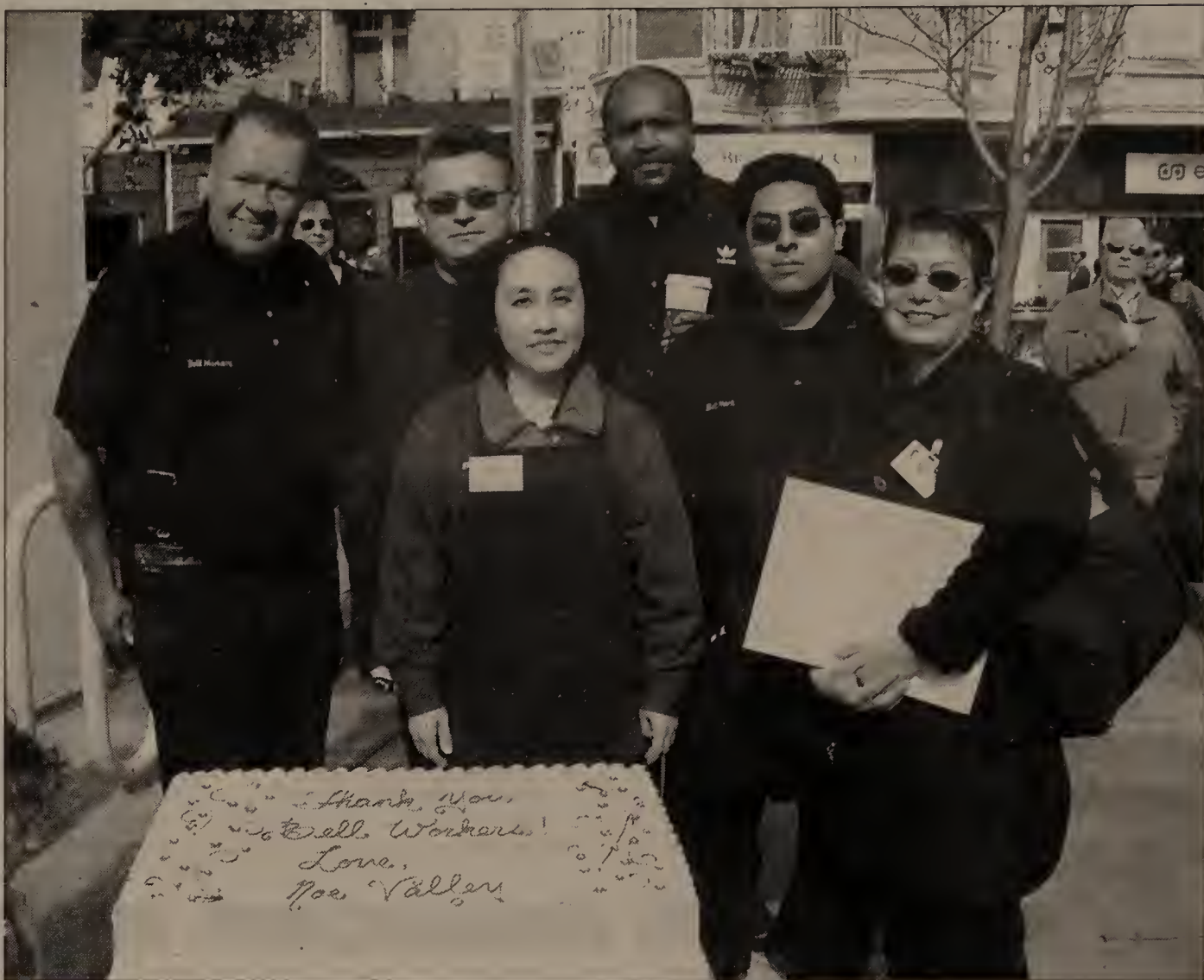
However, he noted that Whole Foods operates a program that shows seniors, or anyone who is interested, how to budget-shop in the store. Customers are taken on a store tour during which employees point out products of good value and special sales promotions. They also are offered money-saving tips.

"We're going to offer those tours at any of our city stores," he said. "We'll shuttle people over there."

Smaller Delivery Trucks

Several residents expressed concern over traffic congestion and truck deliveries.

The store will keep Bell's 8 a.m. to 10



Grateful customers and neighborhood friends held a farewell ceremony for Bell Market employees a week before the store closed on Feb. 15. Shown are (from left) James O'Leary, Rudi Negro, Cheryl Choi, Willie Lawson, David Monterrosa, and Patty Harrold.

Photo by Richard Hildreth



During its six-month renovation of the Bell Market site, Whole Foods Market will operate a weekly shuttle from 24th Street to its store in Potrero Hill.

Photo by Carrie M. Anders

p.m. shopping hours and Bell's system of routing delivery trucks on 24th Street. However, Whole Foods plans to use smaller trucks and vans, rather than the usual tractor-trailer vehicles—and there may be fewer of them.

"We're doing a survey on the number of trucks [needed], and we can modify it a little bit," Rogoff said. "We are mindful that this is a very residential neighborhood with very narrow streets."

Because Bell's 18,000-square-foot store is smaller than Whole Foods' typical 45,000- to 50,000-square-foot markets, Rogoff said he didn't expect the 24th Street operation to be a "destination point" attracting people from outside the neighborhood.

Whole Foods already operates three other stores in the city, and potential shoppers from the Castro and Mission neighborhoods may prefer to visit a store that Whole Foods plans to open at Dolores and Market streets. The company recently signed an agreement to take over the vacant S&C Ford dealership site.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty told the audience, however, that he wasn't adverse to residents from nearby communities doing their grocery shopping in Noe Valley.

"Given how the merchants have suf-

fered on 24th Street with Real Food's being closed," Dufty said, he didn't think it would be "awful if people come from other neighborhoods."

Dufty noted that six businesses closed in the first year after Nutraceutical Corporation abruptly shut down the Real Food Company in 2003. The store remains closed.

David and Goliath

Though Whole Foods has become hugely popular and grown to 270 stores scattered around the country since it first opened in 1980, Rogoff sought to allay fears that it might threaten smaller businesses offering similar products.

"We have found that smaller businesses most often do well when we are around," he said. "It is rare that a well-operated small business has to shut down because of Whole Foods."

Gwen Sanderson, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, said only one Noe Valley merchant had expressed serious concerns about competition from Whole Foods: 24th Street Cheese Company.

She said Cheese Company owner Charles Kung had been assured by Whole Foods that it would have a "very limited

cheese" selection that focused on the company's own brands. The Cheese Company, which sells 300 kinds of imported and domestic cheeses, has operated at 24th and Sanchez streets for more than 30 years.

Lot Beautification

Whole Foods executives also promised to spruce up the recycling center, which will be moved from near the store's entrance to the front of the barricade while construction is under way.

The parking lot area will have a green, more aesthetically pleasing look, thanks to a \$5,000 donation from the Campana family, the longtime owners of the Bell Market property.

Among other things, the money will be used to put ornamental plants in four now-barren patches of dirt in front of the parking lot, as well as small decorative trees along the sides.

Whither the Union Label?

Speakers also raised the issue of unions at Whole Foods, which currently is a non-union operation. Rogoff said the store would not stand in the way of any unionization efforts, but noted that grocery baggers just starting out earned \$11.25 an hour, which he said was higher than union wages for the same job.

Michael Sharpe, president of the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union, Local 648, urged Rogoff to hire employees who had worked at the unionized Bell store—many for decades.

Rogoff said the workers would have to apply like other applicants for the 80 to 100 new positions on 24th Street. But, he said, "we're interviewing them first and separately."

As the meeting drew to a close, a young man who described himself as a "lazy vegan" asked whether the new Whole Foods was going to carry vegan products as the chain did in other locations.

"You're not as rare as you used to be," Rogoff said. "Our CEO is a vegan, so we're very aware."



Your Bell club card may soon be a collector's item. There is only one Bell Market left in San Francisco: the store at California and Hyde streets.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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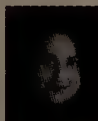
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Real Food Labor Settlement Reached, But Store Plans Still Hazy

By Liz Highleyman

A logjam has broken in the long-running saga of the vacant Real Food Company grocery store on 24th Street.

In mid-February, more than five years after the store's closure, a spokesman for the company announced at a Noe Valley town hall meeting that it had reached a settlement awarding back pay to its former employees, and that it still planned to rebuild and reopen the store.

"We want to prove we could have a great store. We always will be part of the community," said Sergio Diaz, vice president of Fresh Organics, Inc., a division of Utah-based Nutraceutical Corporation, which owns the store and building at 3939 24th Street.

As regular *Voice* readers will recall, Real Food closed over Labor Day weekend in 2003 with no advance notice to customers, suppliers, or 30 laid-off workers. While the company announced that it was closing for a remodeling, some ex-employees claimed they were fired and the store was shuttered to thwart their attempt to organize a union.

Over the ensuing years, neighborhood activists and District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty mobilized to demand a just settlement for the workers and community input on the store's future. Nutraceutical took ownership of the increasingly dilapidated building as part of a legal settlement with former owners Jane and Kimball Allen, and work on the site started and stopped several times. Meanwhile, an unfair labor practices lawsuit unfolded before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Town Hall a Hard Sell

Diaz's appearance at the packed meeting, sponsored by the Noe Valley Demo-

cratic Club at St. Philip's Church, came as a surprise to many, as Nutraceutical and its representatives had spent years evading community members, elected officials, and the press. While attendees acknowledged that it took guts for Diaz to show up, the overall reception bordered on hostile.

"This is the height of chutzpah," said Upper Noe Neighbors president Vicki Rosen. "You are out of touch with the reality of the neighborhood and what we want."

As Diaz explained, Nutraceutical filed a conditional use application in the spring of 2007 seeking to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a multi-story building containing a retail store, residential units, and possibly a community space. Rick Crawford of the San Francisco Planning Department told the *Voice* last fall that the agency asked for more details, but heard nothing further from the company.

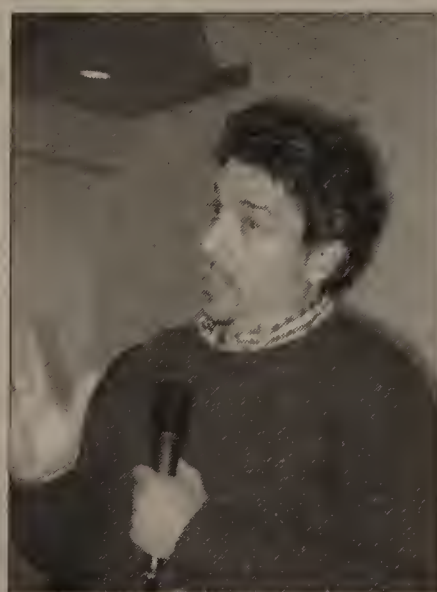
Since then, the economy has gone into a tailspin, and Whole Foods has signed a lease for the former Bell Market space across the street (*see story, page 1*), calling into question the viability of Real Food's original plans.

"We do want to move the project forward, but we probably will scale it back," Diaz said, adding that he does not view Whole Foods as a competitor.

"We're a small health food store, and our commitment has always been to run neighborhood markets," he continued. "We feel the store belongs to you, it belongs to the neighborhood."

This assertion did not sit well with community members who have felt stonewalled for the past half decade.

"I'm astounded by the contention that



At a meeting in February, Sergio Diaz, speaking for the company that owns Real Food, apologized "for the pain of five years" caused by the empty eyesore on 24th Street.

Photo by Liz Highleyman

Real Food is a small natural food company—it's a subsidiary of an enormous corporation," said Leslie Crawford, part of the group that founded the Noe Valley Farmers' Market in response to Real Food's closure. "We tried reaching out and we got no consideration. It feels insulting to say you want to be part of the neighborhood after five years."

After an audience member shouted that he hadn't heard an apology, Diaz said, "I do apologize for the pain of five years.... We did not deliver on time." He also acknowledged that the company "did make a lot of mistakes in closing the store," but he made no mention of the labor dispute.

Labor Deal = Back Pay

The settlement Diaz announced appears to be the final step in a long and tedious process.

In November 2005, an NLRB judge ruled in favor of the former employees on nearly all counts, and a three-member panel upheld the decision in July 2007, ordering that the terminated workers be awarded back pay and offered jobs at other company stores. Nutraceutical filed an appeal, and the board asked the parties to enter negotiations with a court-appointed mediator.

The resulting agreement awards the ex-employees a total of \$371,219 to cover back pay plus interest, contingent upon their waiving any right to reinstatement or preferential hiring should the store reopen.

The NLRB will allocate the funds to the workers based on a variety of factors such as whether an individual sought other employment and remained in the area, according to Karen Thompson, a compliance officer at the board's San Francisco office. Not all former employees will receive part of the award.

"We think it was ultimately a positive result for everyone," said Stephen Hirschfeld, the local attorney representing Nutraceutical. "My clients made the decision not to spend any more money on litigation and agreed to pay what was essentially severance pay."

"I have mixed emotions about the settlement," ex-employee Sarah "Mitch" Genlot told the *Voice*. "I'm glad that we won back pay, but disappointed not to have reinstatement be part of the deal. I want them to have to rehire me, if only to work long enough to see a union contract signed."

What Now?

As of the end of February, Nutraceutical had not yet filed an amended conditional use application. Diaz did not respond to repeated phone calls and e-mails from the *Voice* seeking further information about the company's intentions.

"I'm grateful they came to the meeting, but had hoped they would give a date for their plans," said Dufty. "It still seems a bit of a mystery to me."

Since Whole Foods announced its upcoming Noe Valley debut, support for Real Food's reopening appears to have diminished, with many now favoring alternative uses for the site. Dufty's suggestion at the town hall meeting that the company should consider selling the property was greeted with applause.

"I'm glad the workers finally won, but the decision doesn't begin to address the harm to the community that resulted from the closure of the store," said Peter Gabel, who spearheaded early efforts to negotiate with Nutraceutical. "Why not now donate the building to our public benefit corporation [the Noe Valley Association], take a tax deduction for their generosity, and allow the community itself to develop the property?"

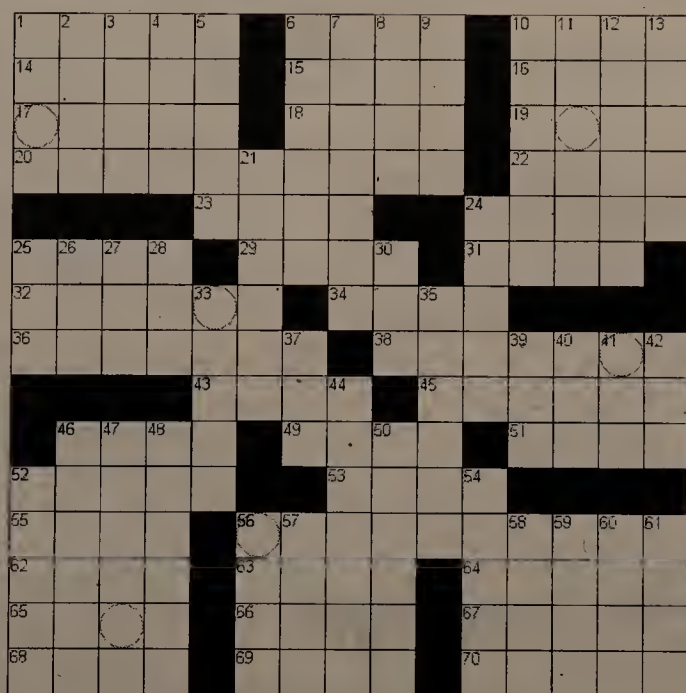
"The settlement is a bittersweet vindication," Dufty concurred. "It's clear to me that across the political spectrum of Noe Valley, the consensus is that they should sell the site. I haven't heard from one person who thought it was a good idea for them to pursue a store opening."

CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

How Cramped Was My Valley

ACROSS

1. Karate blows
6. Light weight
10. Eve's mate
14. Hearing related
15. Chet Morton's sister in the "Hardy Boys" series
16. "Livin' La Vida ____"
17. "This Door Is Locked"
18. Graceful lake bird
19. "One egg," to Pierre
20. Where you might keep earthquake supplies
22. Caesar's 1007
23. How Lindbergh flew
24. Homophobic Bryant
25. Got the top grade
29. ____ of approval
31. John of the PGA
32. Game played with dice-like tiles
34. Cologne that sounds forbidding
36. Sea-based
38. Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Vesuvius
43. Apple Nano or Mini
45. "Hogan's Heroes" setting
46. Sweeping, as a saga
49. Gingrich of Georgia
51. Shampoo brand
52. Arises (from)
53. Last word from Paul Revere after his midnight ride?
55. Marx Brother's instrument
56. 2007 Oscar-nominated documentary about Iraq war
62. Stick in the fridge?
63. Gen-____ (Baby Boomers' babies)
64. Where to find Seoul food
65. Skid Row



inhabitants: var.

66. "Don't worry about me"
67. Still-life pitchers
68. World's longest river
69. The best
70. Painter of ballerinas

DOWN

1. Kayak relatives
2. Helen of "As Good As It Gets"
3. "____ take arms against a sea..." ("Hamlet")
4. Catherine who wed Henry VIII
5. ____ a fox
6. Supermodel Bündchen
7. "Life is but a dream" vessel
8. Jai-____
9. "Death in Venice"

10. Homecoming-game attendee
11. Google's corporate motto
12. Sharp-sightedness
13. La Cosa Nostra
21. Water-cooler chatter
24. Grownup
25. Letters on a Crest pkg.
26. ____ au vin
27. Flightless Australian bird
28. 24 horas
30. Washroom, briefly
33. Science of consciousness and its alterations
35. Where the Charles flows
37. Anti
39. Kind of gun
40. Pub offering
41. ____ for music (tone deafness)

42. Snorkel's rank, briefly
44. Morning "pearl" on a leaf
46. "And others," in footnotes
47. Santa Claus, in Paris
48. Foist (upon)
50. Wire kitchen instruments
52. Demonstrated
54. Inquired
56. 1944 Sartre play
57. "Finding ____"
58. Bumpersticker phrase repeated before "so off to work I go"
59. Kinnear of "Little Miss Sunshine"
60. Juno's counterpart
61. Soviet press agency

Solution on Page 45

City College Leaving James Lick Campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

classes at the Lick Campus at Noe and 25th streets.

The campus was forced to relocate because James Lick does not meet accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act, said Bruce Smith, dean of the Castro/Valencia Campus at Lick.

"We have an agreement, based on a lawsuit, to make all of our sites ADA-accessible," Smith said. The lawsuit was settled several years ago, and "one of the specifics of that agreement was that the Castro Campus had to be accessible," he said.

City College installed wheelchair ramps when the campus first opened in 2000. But Smith noted that four-story James Lick does not have elevators and "none of the bathrooms" have been retrofitted to make them user-friendly for students with disabilities.

However, the San Francisco Unified School District, which operates both Lick and Everett, has completely renovated Everett, on Church between 16th and 17th streets. "That's why we decided to move back there."

City College originally opened a satel-

lite at the Everett site in the 1980s. It moved to James Lick when Everett underwent renovations.

The campus also plans to change its name simply to the Castro Campus. After City College opened a Mission District satellite on Valencia Street in February of last year, the Castro/Valencia name proved too confusing, Smith said.

Neighbors May Smile

As many as 3,000 City College students attend evening and weekend classes at James Lick during the fall, spring, or summer sessions. The crush of students often causes parking headaches for nearby residents, many of whom are returning home from work as students arrive for classes.

"It takes a while for the neighbors to get used to the heavy-duty parking" that accompanies the first two weeks of each new session, Smith said. The parking crunch generally eases by the third week, as students drop out of classes.

Smith said more parking would be available at the Everett location than at James Lick.

Smith praised the administration and staff at the Noe Valley school.

"James Lick has been very hospitable," he said. "I can't say enough nice things about James Lick."

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Upper Noe Rec Center: Pay to Play?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bring their kids into the indoor play area during the center's open hours without having to register or pay a fee.

The current operations are different. The center's hours have been cut back and casual drop-ins are no longer permitted in the multipurpose playroom, called the auditorium. Drop-ins are allowed only if there is no class or meeting in progress, and as long as a staff member is available to actively supervise.

But even if those criteria are met, parents and guardians say they are being turned away more often than not—and the lack of access is aggravating.

"Part of the frustration of the community is the need to register for a class before joining, and the hours that it's open," said Alexandra Torre, who chairs the stewardship group Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center.

Additionally, the city has been increasing the number of programs that require a fee. It's only in the last year or two that the Recreation and Park Commission has enacted more fee structures and instituted the need for patrons to create a "family account" in order to register for programs and courses.

However, the registration process is far from user-friendly. It requires a resident to visit a registration site in person with proof of address, identification, and proof of age for each child.

"We waited two years for [the center] to open, and now we're restricted," said lifelong Noe Valley resident Anne McFadden, who was surprised when she had been told that she had to register and pay in advance in order to bring her toddler into the indoor play area.

In the recreation center's previous incarnation, she said, the center was open for casual use during unfavorable weather as long as there was a staff person on site.

Gym Offered as an Option

San Francisco Recreation and Park area manager Gilberto Rocha acknowledged that drop-in rec center patrons could use the auditorium "only at certain times."

(Those times, according to the center's winter schedule, are 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.)

However, Rocha said that if there is a class in session in the auditorium, the indoor basketball court is available for parents wanting respite from the rain or heat.

"Parents who haven't paid for the Tiny Tot class can go to the gym as long as there isn't a basketball game or practice. A lot of people bring their kids into the



Park patrons, including this adventurous crawler, are lobbying for more free play time in the new auditorium at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street—especially during the rainy season. But budget cuts and staff shortages may stand in the way.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

gym if it's wet or cold. They bring their own toys and the kids play there," Rocha said, adding, "It's not fair to the other parents who paid that we allow people to drop in and use the facility without registering or paying."

But "anyone who has young children understands that kids do not abide by schedules," said Mary McFadden, Anne's sister and another dissatisfied rec center patron. "The park is supposed to be free. Our taxes and donations pay for it."

These days, taxes and donations aren't enough to offset the expense of operating rec centers, said Rocha. "In the old days, we had the staff to run the center. I don't have the staff I used to have to afford the luxury" of opening the center to casual use like before.

He continued, "We have liability issues. If a director isn't watching, kids can go out the back doors or on the stage where we can't see them. There are a lot of problems if we don't supervise the room," he said.

Rocha cited past troubles, such as dirty diapers left in the playroom and broken toys and furniture, as deterrents to allowing free access to the new facility. Also, the new stage, kitchen, and back door require supervision to ensure the safety of wandering toddlers.

"I'm open to whatever the community wants. But there are other issues in-

involved. There are staffing and liability issues," Rocha said.

Park Goers Ask for More Hours

Anne McFadden and several other local residents have offered suggestions to improve the situation.

"It would be more convenient to have paid sessions in the afternoon or stagger more free time in the morning during the week, not just on Monday," McFadden said.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, which serves as a conduit between the community and the block-long park, has taken up the cause of ensuring that the rec center meet the needs of the community.

"They did open the center up in the afternoon, based on our requests," said Torre. "We encourage them to try giving us the benefit of the doubt. Open [the center] up, believe people will respect the space. If things start to get broken, then start reeling back the hours. Give us a chance to set an example."

Upper Noe Rec Center and its neighbors may have to come up with even more creative ways to dialogue in the wake of new citywide budget cuts the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission proposed last month.

While the city has promised that "all parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, pools, golf courses, gyms, art centers, se-

nior centers, and clubhouses will remain open," it doesn't guarantee that programs, hours, and fees will be untouched.

In late February, the center was awaiting final word on staff and program cuts. The spring schedule of hours, class offerings, and fees was scheduled to be released on March 6.

For more information on classes and hours at Upper Noe Recreation Center, visit www.sfreconline.org or call the center directly at 415-970-8061. To open a family account or enroll in Recreation and Park Department programs and courses, register at McLaren Lodge, located at 501 Stanyan Street. It is open during regular hours Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays. Certain recreation centers also serve as registration sites during a brief period at the start of each season. To find out which rec centers are available, visit www.sfgov.org/site/recpark_index.asp or call 415-831-6800.



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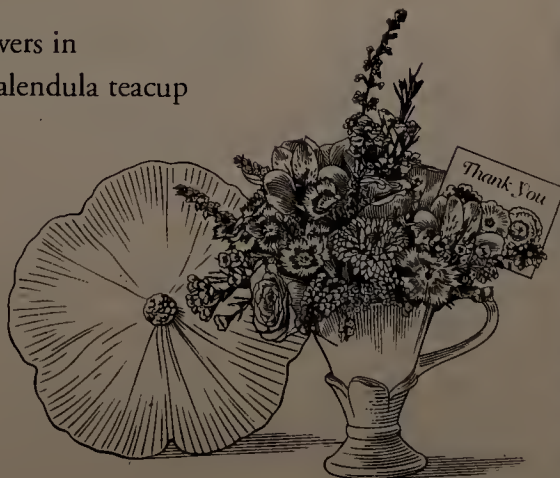
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Secondhand Stores Even Scrappier In Tough Times

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stand-up comedian who runs open-mike nights at Bliss Bar each Monday—to make the rounds of the local thrift stores. There, amidst the quilts, chairs, and lamps, he was reminded of a piece of ancient wisdom: “You can take people’s old things and give them new life.”

At the same time, Goldstein was looking for a way to rid himself of belongings he no longer needed after moving in with his girlfriend. He suspected—and rightly so—that other people might have similar needs.

“I realized a lot of people have the same issue where furniture becomes a hassle when they are moving,” says Goldstein.

He rented the cubbyhole store space on the side of the Belgano Chocolatier building at the corner of Sanchez and 24th streets, and filled it with his own surplus, as well as items from his parents’ home-staging business. Then he started trolling Craigslist for garage and yard sale listings and e-mailing the contacts with a business proposition.

“I e-mailed them and said, ‘What’s the point of having your own garage sale when you can drop off the stuff with me?’” he recalls.

In less than a month, his tiny store seemed to offer the perfect answer to the dismal economy. Not only were customers stopping by, looking for bargains. They were coming in to recycle or sell their possessions, in an effort to recoup some of their value.

“I call it the never-ending garage sale. There are always different things coming in here, and things coming and going.”

Consigners Get Half

The Garage Sale Store accepts a variety of household items, furniture, and electronic equipment—pretty much anything other than clothing, Goldstein says.

He allows patrons to leave up to 10 of their own items for sale at the shop. He’ll also pick up items from consigners’ homes for \$10 to \$20, thanks to a special deal he gets from Zipcar. At the end of each month, Goldstein tallies up his store’s sales and sends consigners a check for 50 percent of each item’s selling price. Goldstein determines the prices, which range from \$1 for odds and ends from his \$1 bucket, to \$200 for an 8-by-10 rug.

While it’s hardly a get-rich-quick scheme, the business has steadily attracted patrons, Goldstein says. He recently hired an employee to man the shop when he’s not there. The store is now open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., seven days per week.

“I have a lot of repeat customers, and over 30 people have brought me their stuff thus far,” says Goldstein.

He recommends that people call him (858-997-5285) before bringing their items for consignment, to make sure he has enough space to house them.

Peekabootique by Appointment

Goldstein’s isn’t the only neighborhood business experiencing an influx of customers seeking to buy or sell secondhand merchandise.

“It’s definitely been picking up, and more people that haven’t before looked at the used [clothing] are now looking at it,” says Peekabootique store manager Antoinette Guilfoyle.

The Castro Street children’s shop carries both new and used clothing, for newborns through age 6. Those with clothes to unload can set up appointments during special buying hours. The store selects the items it wants and offers either 40 percent



Mary’s Exchange employee Lynn Schroeder examines clothing the Castro Street shop might accept for consignment. Lately, the store is a magnet for those wishing to sell their cast-offs.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

of the sale price in cash or 50 percent in store credit.

“We have a lot more requests for selling,” says the store’s co-owner Michelle Furlong, who estimates that the wait for an appointment is about three weeks.

To find success as a seller, it pays to bring clothes that are in season and bearing popular labels, such as Gymboree, GAP, and Ralph Lauren.

Spring Sweaters Fine

Following the same strategy will help consigners’ chances a few doors down from Peekabootique at Mary’s Exchange, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in the neighborhood this year.

“Basically what we look for is anything in season and in very good shape,” says owner Wendy.

The store prefers current styles no more than a few seasons old, but also accepts cashmere sweaters and the occasional vintage item.

Along with contemporary women’s clothing, the store offers handbags, shoes, and accessories.

“I have a really interesting collection of vintage, sterling, and old costume jewelry, and a lot of new jewelry,” she says.

Those interested in consignment hours and details may contact the store directly for more information.

Cece’s Crowded Collection

At the opposite end of the neighborhood, Cece’s Closet brings neighborhood shoppers another option for buying and selling secondhand women’s apparel and accessories from recent seasons. Well known for its collection of shoes, the Church Street store specializes in apparel from mainstream brands like Liz Claiborne and Banana Republic.

“Last month [January] was quiet for us. This month has started to pick up,” says owner Cecelia Salas, who celebrated the store’s 10th year in the neighborhood in 2008.

Salas says more people have been inquiring about consigning items in her shop, so she’s not lacking in merchandise to sell, though she is starting to look for spring merchandise. Instead of sellers, it’s an increase in buyers she hopes to see in the coming weeks.

“Now we need to have customers, because we have the store full,” she says.

Trade-Ins No Mystery

Another neighborhood retailer experiencing an upswing in secondhand merchandise is the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, on 24th Street near Diamond.

“I’ve never seen so many people bring books in for trade. It’s a constant stream,” reports owner Djane Kudisch, who accepts used volumes in return for store credit.

Customers favor her shop’s secondhand books over new ones to such a degree that she’s become increasingly selective about stocking new material.

“There are about five or six [authors] that I can count on these days that even with the rotten economy people will pay for even in hardcovers,” says Kudisch, who counts neighborhood resident Cara Black among her store’s bestselling new authors.

For those planning to bring books into the store, the best bets for trade-in success are paperback historical and crime novels. “We’re always looking for good British stuff, international stuff, things you can’t get in other bookstores. That’s what we try to carry: things you can’t get at Borders or Barnes & Noble,” Kudisch says.

Outlets for Artists

The Church Street store and consignment gallery When Modern Was also prides itself on offering the sort of items

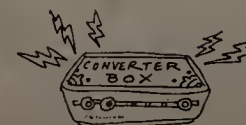
shoppers can’t find at mainstream big-box retailers.

“When people think consignment, people think used. But it’s also for artists to have an outlet. Because artists are unheard of, they need to get their work out there,” explains store co-owner Dona Taylor, who also co-owns Gallery of Jewels on 24th Street.

When Modern Was accepts furniture and home accessories on a consignment basis from a mixture of professional dealers, artists, and just regular folks looking to divest themselves of vintage or antique items. At Gallery of Jewels, Taylor says there’s a waiting list populated with jewelry designers wanting to sell their work.

From shoppers seeking bargains and unique items they can’t find at chain stores, to artists producing new work with secondhand materials, to the business owners manning the shops, secondhand seems to hold equal allure for those standing on both sides of the proverbial cash register.

Says Taylor: “It’s a win-win during hard times.”



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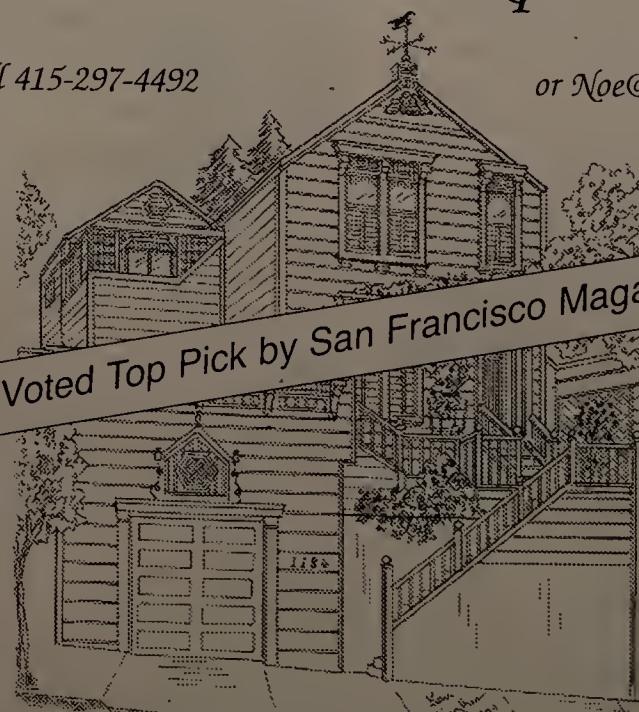
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The Cost of Living in Noe

A Chilly January

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley's housing market continued to shrivel in January '09, as buyers purchased only four detached homes and two condominiums during the month.

The price paid for the four houses averaged a little under \$1.2 million and was about 5 percent below the price the sellers originally wanted, according to Zephyr Real Estate, which provides monthly

sales data to the *Voice*. In addition, the deals took an average 82 days to close.

For purposes of comparison, in January a year ago, seven detached homes changed hands, and buyers paid an average \$1.6 million, 3 percent *more* than the sellers' asking price. Those deals took 52 days to close.

The more recent data showed that both the value of homes and the number of sales have declined since September 2008, as the nation's economic woes finally seeped into Noe Valley. (See *housing story, front page.*)

Still, prices in the neighborhood remain high—by most Americans' standards. The ticket for the most expensive home sold in January was \$1.5 million. The four-bedroom, four-bath house, with two-car parking and 2,700 square feet of

space, is located in the 1300 block of Dolores Street between 26th and 27th streets. The lowest sale price during the month was \$945,000.

The highest priced condo, located in

the 900 block of Elizabeth Street between Hoffman and Grand View, sold for \$1,260,000. With 1,900 square feet, the home has three bedrooms, 2½ baths, and parking for one car. ■

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Feb. 2009	Average Feb. 2009	Average Jan. 2009	Average Feb. 2008
Studio	11	\$1,000 – \$2,300	\$1,592 / mo.	\$1,429 / mo.	\$1,545 / mo.
1-bdrm	25	\$1,460 – \$2,650	\$1,965 / mo.	\$1,880 / mo.	\$2,019 / mo.
2-bdrm	34	\$1,899 – \$5,950	\$3,073 / mo.	\$2,972 / mo.	\$3,354 / mo.
3-bdrm	17	\$2,800 – \$5,400	\$3,738 / mo.	\$4,086 / mo.	\$4,594 / mo.
4+-bdrm	9	\$4,400 – \$8,950	\$6,094 / mo.	\$6,759 / mo.	\$6,374 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 96 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Jan. 27 to Feb. 9, 2009.

NV 3/09

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Jan. 2009	4	\$945,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,181,875	82	95%
Dec. 2008	6	\$885,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,219,833	75	99%
Jan. 2008	7	\$935,000	\$2,612,501	\$1,636,214	52	103%
Condominiums						
Jan. 2009	2	\$950,000	\$1,262,500	\$1,106,250	67	92%
Dec. 2008	4	\$650,000	\$1,198,000	\$869,500	76	98%
Jan. 2008	1	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	58	96%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
Jan. 2009	5	\$920,000	\$1,312,000	\$1,108,800	85	90%
Dec. 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
Jan. 2008	1	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000	29	102%
5+-unit buildings						
Jan. 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2008	1	\$1,960,000	\$1,960,000	\$1,960,000	197	96%
Jan. 2008	2	\$1,415,000	\$2,029,000	\$1,722,000	110	96%

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined in this survey as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the sales data.

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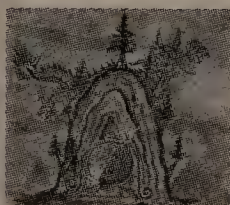
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Mission Police Station Captain Says He's All Ears

By Sally Smith

"We need to talk." That's what Mission Police Capt. Stephen Tacchini wants to say to Noe Valley residents.

Interviewed a week after he attended a Town Hall hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club on Feb. 18, Tacchini said he is convinced that communication is the key to increased public safety.

"We need to improve the information-sharing," said Tacchini, who recently completed a year in the top job at Mission Station. "We need to hear what you have to say. E-mail me or call me. I welcome your e-mails."

Sometimes residents fail to report an incident. Or they report a crime but never learn what happened in the case. "Maybe we caught them," Tacchini said. So he'd like to tell you what's hot off the presses.

For instance, he said the police recently set up a sting at a coffee shop in the area, to try to deter laptop thefts. "Our decoy puts a laptop and a cup of coffee on a table, and then walks away and waits."

The decoys have done their work, said Tacchini. "We've had six thefts and six arrests." And the operation is ongoing.

That's a bit of positive news. (And it's a reminder to never lose sight of your laptop, cell phone, or iPod. "Never leave anything visible" in your car either, Tacchini said.)

Another bright spot is that Noe Valley remains one of the safest neighborhoods in the city. "It's very safe," said Tacchini. "That's why eyebrows get raised when something does happen."

But if you have complaints or suggestions for better police enforcement, fire away. "I don't profess to know all the answers," Tacchini said.

He said he expected that Officer Lorraine Lombardo would be back on the foot patrol on 24th Street in late March. She's been on vacation, as well as nursing a slight injury to her hand.

Meanwhile, Tacchini is making the rounds of the neighborhood watch groups and community organizations. He can't say enough about their effectiveness.

"We have 55 neighborhood watch groups in the Mission, and I try to report to all of them. If you start one, I'll report to yours. That way, your group can tell 200 other people, and we can all be more diligent."

He also is sending out a weekly e-mail newsletter (in English and Spanish). And he is starting a blog. "Then we can respond to one another in an open format."

In addition, next month he will be providing the *Voice* with a crime log for the part of Noe Valley his station covers—from 21st Street down to Cesar Chavez Street, and from Guerrero up to Grand View.

To get in the loop, e-mail Tacchini at Stephen.Tacchini@sfgov.org. Or call him at the station at 558-5400. Or look out for him at Barney's Hamburgers on 24th Street. That's one of his favorite Noe Valley restaurants. ■

CRIME BEAT

Editor's Note: The Voice thanks Ingleside Capt. Denis O'Leary for providing a monthly log of incidents reported for the southern half of Noe Valley, which is under the jurisdiction of Ingleside Police Station. This month, the blotter covers incidents reported Jan. 16 to Feb. 15, 2009, within the area bounded by Grand View, Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

By Ingleside Police Capt. Denis O'Leary
Incident Report for Jan. 16 to Feb. 15, 2009

Jan. 16, 5 p.m., 300 block of 29th: Mental health intervention.

Jan. 21, 5 p.m., Zircon Place: A 66-year-old man last seen in 2004 was reported missing.

Jan. 22, 1:20 p.m., 1400 block of Sanchez: A 64-year-old Upper Noe Valley woman was cited for having an unleashed dog.

Jan. 22, 8:15 p.m., 27th & Church: Attempted robbery. A Noe Valley man found himself surrounded by three male teenagers who demanded his backpack. He refused to comply, and one of the teens produced a handgun and threatened him. One of the robbers punched the man in the face, and the man ran from them. The suspects fled empty-handed, and the police were called. As Officer Androvich interviewed the victim on the 1500 block of Church Street, the man pointed out the suspects as they passed by inside a Muni LRV. Sergeant Kim and posse stopped the train at Church and Cesar Chavez streets and detained four teens. A replica handgun was found near one of the suspects. The victim identified his assailants, and three of the four were charged with attempted robbery. The three suspects, a 16-year-old Tenderloin District resident, a 15-year-old Mission District resident, and a 15-year-old SOMA District resident, were turned over to probation officers at Juvenile Justice Center. Sergeant Brancini, Robbery Detail, took over the investigation. Case #090081515.

Jan. 23, 8:45 a.m., 200 block of Day: Burglary. Occurred between Jan. 22 and 23. Entry was gained via a common garage, and a vehicle was burglarized. Cash was taken.

Jan. 23, 9:30 p.m., first block of Day: Vehicle theft. 1992 Honda Accord stolen.

Jan. 28, noon, 300 block of 29th: Officer found a stolen plate on an illegally parked motorcycle. The bike was towed for a registration violation.

Jan. 29, 8:45 a.m., Cesar Chavez & Sanchez: Auto burglary. Occurred between Jan. 28 and 29. Window was smashed, and GPS unit and MP3 player were taken.

Jan. 30, 3 p.m., 400 block of 30th: Embezzlement. Suspect known.

Feb. 5, 9:45 p.m., 30th & Laidley: A 30-year-old Berkeley man was arrested for disorderly conduct. Case #090133144.

Feb. 6, 4:30 p.m., 1600 block of Dolores: Vandalism to building. Keyplate pried open.

Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m., Diamond & 29th: Warrant arrest. A 47-year-old Noe Valley man was arrested on a local misdemeanor warrant. Case #070871803.

Feb. 7, 7 p.m., 1700 block of Church: Vandalism to parked car. Broken window. Suspect known.

Feb. 9, 3:15 p.m., 1700 block of Church: Burglary. Occurred between Feb. 8 and 9. Entry was gained through common garage. A computer, clothing, money, and a tool were taken from an unlocked car.

Feb. 11, 8:45 p.m., 100 block of 29th: Death case. Cause unknown.

Feb. 13, 9:10 a.m., 200 block of 29th: 2000 Honda Civic recovered.

Feb. 13, 10:50 a.m., 1500 block of Sanchez: Burglary. A building under construction was burglarized sometime between Feb. 3 and 4. Entry was gained via a garage window. A suitcase, CD player, and telephone were taken.

Feb. 13, noon, 1600 block of Church: Theft. School personnel saw a trespasser and later discovered the loss of an employee's wallet.

Feb. 15, 11 a.m., Sanchez & 27th: Found property, wallet and contents.

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Noe Valley's Police Districts

Noe Valley falls under the jurisdiction of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission police cover the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside police monitor the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue.

To speak to an officer at Mission Station, call 558-5400. You are also welcome to e-mail Capt. Stephen Tacchini at Stephen.Tacchini@sfgov.org. The station's tip line for anonymous reporting of drug or gang activity is 552-4558. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000, or e-mail Capt. Denis O'Leary at Denis.O'Leary@sfgov.org. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting and e-mail addresses, go to www.sfgov.org/police. You can also find crime data, sorted by zip code, at www.CrimeReports.com or <http://sf.everyblock.com/>. To report a crime in progress, call 911.

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SHORT TAKES

Seeking Not-So-Secret Gardens

Local residents with green thumbs and a penchant for garden parties can help beautify the neighborhood by sharing their gardens at the fifth annual Noe Valley Garden Tour, set for the second Saturday in June.

Noe Valley residents who'd like to nominate either their own garden, or a friend's or a neighbor's, are encouraged to contact the group Friends of Noe Valley, whose garden committee will select seven gardens for the tour during the coming weeks.

Eligible gardens should offer direct garden access from the outdoors, not just through a home entrance, and must lie within the following boundaries: Guerrero Street on the east, 21st Street on the north, Market Street and/or Diamond Heights Boulevard on the west, and 30th Street on the south.

"Basically, anything goes. Everyone's interested in looking at all kinds of gardens, and all kinds of gardens have been on the tour. We've had a garden for dogs, one for flowers and vegetables, a garden for the blind, and lots with just flat-out gorgeous flowers," said Richard May, who's chairing the event for Friends.

Every year, proceeds from the tour support beautification projects in the neighborhood. This year's beneficiary will be the Noe Valley Library, and funds will be used for rejuvenation of the library's back garden. In past years, funds went to flower baskets and trees on 24th Street, and landscaping at James Lick Middle School.

Friends of Noe Valley is also seeking volunteers to help sell tickets for the event, collect tickets on the tour day, and staff entrance tables at each garden.

The Noe Valley Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and free for children under 10. To nominate a garden for the tour, contact Richard May at 415-602-4445.

—Lorraine Sanders



In the documentary *Waiting for a Train*, Noe Valley musician Toshio Hirano (center, on guitar) performs with fiddler Mayumi Urgino and bass player Kenan O'Brien alongside a moving train in Niles Canyon, Calif. The film, premiering this month at the city's Asian American Film Festival, tells the story of Hirano's plucky musical journey across the United States.

Photo courtesy film director Oscar Bucher

From Japan to the J-Church Line

Noe Valley resident Toshio Hirano, a Japanese-born musician inspired by country legend Jimmie Rodgers to become a bluegrass singer, is the subject of a documentary premiering this month at the 27th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.

The 20-minute film, *Waiting for a Train*, showcases Hirano on a journey that took him from Tokyo to San Francisco via Texas and Appalachia. Director Oscar Bucher captured some of the film's footage at Hirano's longtime family home next to the J-line in Noe Valley, and at the Amnesia nightclub on Valencia Street in the Mission District.

The festival describes Hirano, who plays banjo, guitar, and mandolin, as "a man following his bliss and being rewarded with a life well-lived, filled with music, song, and dance." Hirano currently works as a teaching assistant and moonlights, performing the Rodgers repertoire, at clubs like Amnesia and the Rite Spot. Bucher is a graduate student at San Francisco State University.

Hirano will perform live after *Waiting*

for a *Train* screens at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post Street, at noon on March 14. The film will be shown again at the Kabuki at 9:30 p.m. on March 17. Tickets cost \$10.

A total of 108 films and videos will be shown at the festival, which runs March 12 to 22. In addition to the Kabuki, venues include the Castro Theatre, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, and the Camera 12 Cinemas in San Jose.

For more information, go to the website www.asianamericanmedia.org or call 415-863-0814.

—Corrie M. Anders

Noe Go Bragh

Anyone can be Irish in Noe Valley on St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17. All you need is a little green and a pint in hand.

During the annual feast day, the Dubliner Bar at 3838 24th Street will be serving corned beef and cabbage, and celebrants near the door will probably catch sight of Irish dancers and bagpipers passing by.

A block away at Noe's Bar on the corner of Church and 24th streets, patrons

can eat complimentary corned beef and cabbage, thanks to the bar and the adjacent Basso's Restaurant. Both pubs expect festivities to start around noon.

For those able to roll down the hill, O'Greenberg's at 1600 Dolores Street will have corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and jello shots starting at 11 a.m.

The Men of St. Paul's Parish will get an early start to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations on Saturday, March 14, when they host their annual Irish dinner. Music and dancing will follow a meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and dessert.

The festivities start at 6 p.m. in the Father Mario P. Farana Parish Hall of St. Paul's School at 1690 Church Street. Tickets are available in the Rectory at 221 Valley Street and are \$15 in advance for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Parking is available in the lot behind the school through the gate on 29th Street. For more information, call 415-648-7538.

By the way, the city's 158th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off March 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the corner Market and Second streets. An expected 10,000 par-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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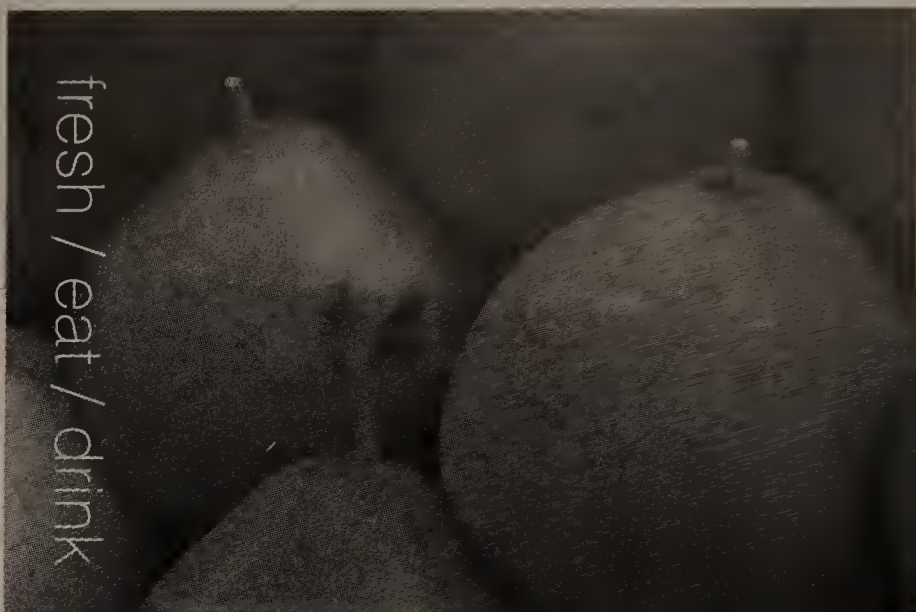
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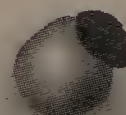
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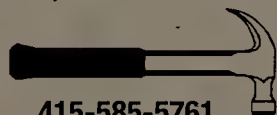
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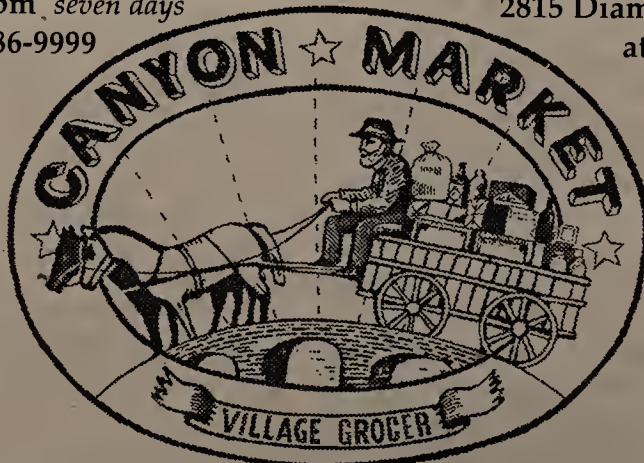
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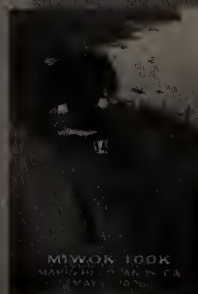
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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

ticipants will head toward the Civic Center on colorful floats and in Irish dance troupes and marching bands.

This year's theme is "Go Green," a nod both to the color associated with Ireland and to the cause of energy conservation. An Irish Festival follows at Civic Center Plaza in front of City Hall. For details, check out sfstpatricksdaysparade.com or call the parade hotline at 415-395-3417.

—Heather World

Share a Story on Book Week

Middle-school students are needed to "Share a Story" with youngsters at the Noe Valley Library on April 19, the start of Noe Valley Celebrates the Book Week. The kids will be asked to read stories aloud during a special two-hour event.

This rare opportunity for pre-teens to perform community service will give younger children a taste of the thrill of reading, said Mindy Kershner, a Noe Valley resident for more than 30 years. The readers will benefit, too, she said.

"I've had young kids, and there's very little for kids under 18 to give back to their community," said Kershner. "Plus, all our local kids go to different schools, and they don't get a chance to meet each other and know each other."

Kershner is a member of the Friends of Noe Valley, which co-sponsors the annual celebration with the neighborhood's independent bookstores and the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch of the public library. During the week, Phoenix Books & Records, Cover to Cover Booksellers, Omnivore Books on Food, and the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore will each host a reading.

April 19 falls on a Sunday, Kershner noted. If the weather is nice, the readings will be held in the library's garden, she said.

The middle-school students, who generally fall between the ages of 11 and 14, can choose a favorite book to read or get ideas from children's librarian Carol Small, Kershner said.

Depending on how many people attend the event, the middle-schoolers may go one-on-one or read for a small group of children. The readings will take place between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Interested readers may e-mail Kershner at mindytower@aol.com or call 415-377-3890 to sign up. Parents and toddlers need only show up, and do not have to preregister.

The Noe Valley Library is located at 451 Jersey Street.

—Heather World

Noe Valley Unplugged.

A group of independent musicians has launched a new Songwriter Concert Series, presented on the last Saturday of the month at MoBu Dance Studio on Church Street.

The concerts, featuring nationally touring as well as local acts, landed in the neighborhood by way of the Pacifica-based music co-op Blah Blah Woof Woof, founded by folk musician Jay Howlett.

Howlett and his wife Barbara, who was a Noe Valley resident for eight years, are longtime friends of MoBu Dance Studio owner Takami Craddock.

"We picked Noe Valley because we think it's a great community to try to present contemporary acoustic music in. It's a wonderful area, and it seems to be just such a strong community. We've known Takami for years, and it seemed like a perfect fit," Jay Howlett told the *Voice*.

Held in a space that can comfortably seat 50 to 70 guests, the performances offer the kind of intimate setting that audiences and musicians crave.

"I could play in a bar, but it's not really a listening venue," Howlett said.

The first show, on Jan. 24, drew a



Folk artists Bev Barnett and Greg Newlon perform March 28 at the Blah Blah Woof Woof Songwriter Concert Series.

Photo by Gary Brewster

crowd of about 50 people.

"Fifty people for a traveling musician is a very nice house," said Howlett. "There's this whole movement of singer-songwriters that are very good, that have chosen to go the independent route, that make their way across the country and actually make their living playing at little small venues because the audience is so supportive. It's almost a viral way of marketing. It's real homespun."

Singer-songwriter duo Bev Barnett and Greg Newlon headline this month's event and perform original work from their latest release, *Any Doorway Will Do*. Musician, producer, and singer-songwriter Steve Kritzer performs the show's opening act.

The Blah Blah Woof Woof Songwriter Concert takes place on Saturday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. MoBu Dance Studio is located at 1605 Church Street at 28th Street. Tickets are \$15 and available via www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information about the concert series, visit www.blahblahwoofwoof.com.

—Lorraine Sanders

The Reinvention of Rabbi Sam

Noe Valley playwright-actor Charlie Varon returns to the Marsh Theater in the Mission District with his first full-length play in nine years.

This time, the popular soloist acts out the story of Rabbi Sam, a man who wants to reinvent Judaism at the synagogue where he's just been hired. His congregation ranges from believers to skeptics, from old-fashioned to newfangled. Some members like the new rabbi. Some can't stand him. "And of course, some can't stand each other," Varon jokes in his publicity material.

Varon plays the rabbi, of course, and 11 other characters including eight contentious board members who must answer to the flock.

Varon has appeared many times at the Marsh, with hit shows like *Rush Limbaugh in Night School* and *The People's Violin*. (The *Limbaugh* show made the Marsh enough money to buy its present location in the late 1990s.)

Rabbi Sam plays through April 5 at the Marsh MainStage Theater on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and on Sundays, March 1, 15, and 29, at 7 p.m. There is a Sunday matinee, 2 p.m., on March 8 and 22.

Some shows are followed by discussions. After the March 8 matinee, Rabbi Dorothy Richman of U.C. Berkeley Hillel leads a discussion featuring Rabbi Micah Hyman of Beth Shalom in San Francisco and Rabbi Chai Levy of Kol Shofar in Tiburon. Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan of Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco leads the discussion March 14, and Rabbi Dan Goldblatt of Beth Chaim in Danville ap-



Charlie Varon is back at the Marsh with a full-length play debating Judaism, *Rabbi Sam*.

Photo by Shawn Ferreyra

pears after the March 21 performance.

Tickets cost \$18 and up, based on sliding scale. Buy tickets by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006 or visit themarsh.org. The theater is located at 1062 Valencia Street near 22nd Street.

—Heather World

Money Talk for Seniors

In this time of shrinking bank accounts and rising medical costs, two local groups are hosting gatherings to address the problems of midlife and older adults.

The Older Women's League (OWL) is sponsoring a March 28 talk titled, "The Economic Downturn: How Can Midlife and Older Women Plan for the Future?"

Guest speaker Catherine Pinkas, a financial adviser and educator specializing in portfolio management and retirement planning, will outline ways women can weather the current financial storms and work to meet their future goals.

Pinkas' talk will run from 11 a.m. to noon, following an OWL social and business meeting starting at 10 a.m. Guests are welcome. The event takes place at the Flood Building, 870 Market Street, Room 1185. Call 415-989-4422 or visit www.owlsf.org for more information.

Meanwhile, city residents aged 50 and up have launched San Francisco Village, a nonprofit membership organization that hopes to empower older adults to "age in their own homes."

The Village offers a network of resources, services, and providers for practical daily living needs, health and wellness, and social, cultural, and educational activities.

Yearly dues are \$600 for a one-person household and \$750 for a two-person household. Call 415-387-1375 or see www.sfvillage.org for more information.

—Heather World

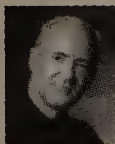
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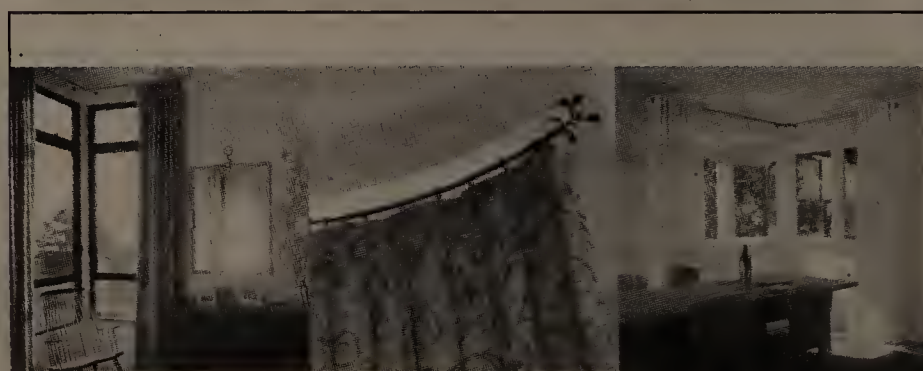
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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Budget Wonks Lead Economic Forum

Want to vent to local and state politicians about how badly the economic crisis is affecting you? Or perhaps you want to offer them solutions for making things better?

You'll get the chance Wednesday, March 18, when San Francisco and California budget executives will be on hand at the monthly meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club at St. Philip's Church.

The speakers include Gina Antonini of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's field office and Nani Coloretti of Mayor Gavin Newsom's Office of Policy and Finance.

Antonini and Coloretti will describe how the state and the city are dealing with the severe fiscal downturn, and then field questions from the audience.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 725 Diamond Street, between Elizabeth and 24th streets.

—Corrie M. Anders

13 Poets at the Randall

To many people, poetry means little more than a few memorized lines from literary giants like Lord Byron or Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Poets Stephen Kopel and Ana Elsner hope to change that by offering three free nights of performance poetry at the Randall Museum. The weekly Thursday event, sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, will feature 13 poets, whose work ranges from mirthful to war-weary.

The poets on March 5 include Charlie Getter (who has been seen reading poetry at 16th and Mission streets) and Don Brennan, who says he started doing open-mike poetry after age 65. They'll join French translator Rosemary Manno and outdoor troubadour Jerry Ferraz for an evening titled "Viewpoint Vistas."

Stephen Kopel reads the following

Thursday, March 12, joined by hip-hop-inspired poet Jari Bradley, novelist Christopher Bernard, and tattooed chanteuse Cara Vida, at an event called "Passion Unveiled."

Elsner reads at the final event on March 19, titled "Lasting Impressions." Elsner, creator of a modified version of Haiku poetry called moku, will be joined by secular humanist Al Averbach, former journalist and screenwriter Richard Beban, and Lunation, a poetry duet featuring Clara Hsu and Bill Mercer.

All performances begin at 7 p.m. in the museum's theater. Though the Randall mostly serves children, these readings are aimed at adults 15 and up. The museum, which is wheelchair-accessible, is located in Corona Heights Park at 199 Museum Way at Roosevelt Way. Call 415-554-9600 for directions.

—Heather World

Tropical Fun-Raiser

The Noe Valley Nursery School will host a Tiki Island Family Fling and Silent Auction March 21, featuring a disc jockey, Pacific Island food and drink, and games for the kids.

The fundraiser takes place at the co-op's home in the Noe Valley Ministry, where the preschool has operated for the past 40 years.

Many schools hold similar benefits, says school parent and last year's auction chair Christine Tawadrous. "[But] a unique thing about our event is that we do have the kids involved. It makes it something the whole family can come to."

While the adults eat, drink, and bid upstairs, the kids can play carnival games, watch a clown perform, and eat food and ice cream downstairs, under supervision, she said.

The idea for the co-op came about in 1968, when a group of parents who met regularly at Douglass Playground decided to create a parent-run day care. Families divide up the school chores, including the annual auction, Tawadrous said.

"It makes a difference," she said. "They take ownership and are proud of it."

This year, the parents decided to go tropical.

"We thought there's a lot you can do with a tiki island theme," Tawadrous said.

Children's author Maria van Lieshout recently added *Peep!*—a story about a little bird ready to take a big leap—to her series of picture books.

It helps that (at least) one school parent is a gourmet chef.

Despite the current recession, auction donations from 24th Street merchants have been strong, Tawadrous said. In addition, a pair of school parents who dance and choreograph professionally have donated tickets to many great shows.

Last year, the auction raised \$15,000, but this year the goal is only \$10,000, owing to the softer economy. The school welcomes the entire community.

The auction runs from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez Street. You can buy a ticket online and preview items up for bid at www.noevalleynurseryschool.com, for \$15. Tickets at the door cost \$20. Children's tickets are \$5. A \$10 open-bar ticket is also available. For information call the school at 415-647-2278.

—Heather World

Page-Turners from Neighborhood Authors

Two local authors are set to unveil new books in the coming weeks.

Children's author and Noe Street resident Maria van Lieshout is celebrating the publication of *Peep! A Little Book About Taking a Leap*, out this month from Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan. The book follows the trials and tribulations of a little bird named Peep as he gains the strength and courage to hop off a frighteningly high street curb.

The book is the third in a series that began with *Bloom! A Little Book About Finding Love*, which brought the story of a pig in love with a butterfly to book shelves last spring, and *Splash! A Little Book About Bouncing Back*, published in

October. Two more books are planned.

A neighborhood party in honor of van Lieshout's latest *Peep!* will be held Saturday, April 4, 5 p.m., at Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro Street. For more information about van Lieshout's book series, visit the author online at www.mariavanlieshout.com.

Also due out this month is *Murder in the Latin Quarter*, the ninth installment in the Aimée Leduc Investigation series from best-selling mystery author and Alvarado Street resident Cara Black.

Black's latest volume follows Leduc as she embarks upon a quest to find a woman claiming to be her long-lost sister. The hunt leads the intrepid detective on a daring search through Paris' Left Bank, where she becomes embroiled in a case mixing her own quest for family, Haitian politics, and—ultimately—murder.

Black is scheduled to appear at the Booksmith (1644 Haight St.) on March 5, Bookshop West Portal (80 West Portal Ave.) on March 10, the San Francisco Public Library (100 Larkin St.) on April 18, and the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez Street on June 15. For a complete list of Black's upcoming readings and appearances, visit the author's web site at www.carablack.com.

—Lorraine Sanders



The latest by mystery writer Cara Black



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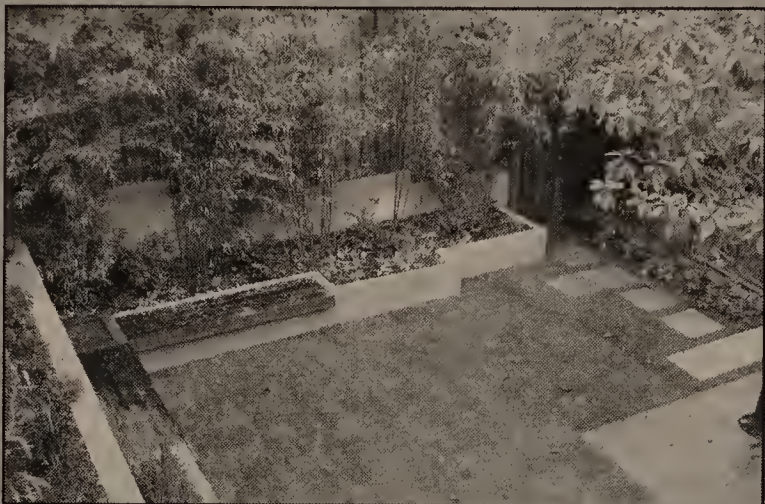
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MARCH

March 1-27: An EXHIBIT of "Future Landscapes Designed by Women," featuring Latina women artists, continues at Mission Cultural Center. Reception March 27, 7-9 pm. 2868 Mission. 821-1155. www.missionculturalcenter.org.

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Bliss Bar Sunday Afternoon JAZZ SERIES features pianist Larry Vuckovich and guest artists. 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; www.blissbarsl.com.

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Infants and crawlers are invited to sing and play in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

March 2-31: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

March 2-31: Kids and their caregivers are invited for a free TDT TIME at the Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011 or 970-8061.

March 2-31: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

March 2-31: Kids in grades K-7 can get HOMEWORK help at the Mission Library Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, for ages 18- to 36 months, from 10:15 to 10:40 am and preschool STDY TIME from 11 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STDY HDUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Chris Sequeira gives a beginners TAI CHI class Tuesdays, with a free introductory session. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

March 3 & April 7: The SPCA offers a free PET LDSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25: MoBu Studio's Pal-ersize Adventures in Fitness presents PAL TIME-4-TOTS, a class to practice motor skills for mommies and tots 18 months to 3 years. 9-9:40 am. 1605 Church. 550-PALS.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Upper Noe SENIORS meet for socializing and bingo. Wed., noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday LAPSIT, for newborns to age 3, begins at 3 pm; an afternoon story time for ages 3 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. Tiny Tots Room, 100 Collingwood. 557-4353.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25: Kiki-Yo offers a drop-in KIDS YDGA class from 4:45 to 5:30 on Wednesdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

March 4-15: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *A Beautiful View*, Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor's PLAY about two women in love. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. 861-5079; www.TheRhino.org.

March 4-27: Maria Tam teaches a new YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

March 4-28: City Art Cooperative Gallery hosts a GRDUP ART EXHIBIT of new works by members. Reception March 6, 7-10 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.com.

March 5: The 14th OTHER MINDS Festival of New Music features "new music mavericks" from Poland, Denmark, Canada, Brazil, and more. 7 pm panel, 8 pm concerts. JCCSF Kanbar Hall, 3200 California. 292-1233; www.otherminds.org.

March 5, 12 & 19: A PERFORMANCE POETRY series at the Randall Museum features 13 poets. 7 pm. 199 Museum Way. Call 554-9600 for the schedule.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26: A Thursday STRDLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26: CANDLELIT YDGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. 7 pm, Thursdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

March 5-26: Filty24SF Gallery exhibits "Mixed Messages," a group ART SHDW. Reception March 5, 7-9 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 248 & 252 Fillmore. 252-9144.

March 6: The San Francisco GIRLS CHORUS sings "Baroque Splendor," including Handel, Pergolesi, and Mexican Baroque. 6 pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 863-1752; www.sfgirlschorus.org.

March 6 & 8: Goat Hill Productions performs a CABARET OPERA version of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Fri., 8 pm; Sun., 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 826-8670; www.sfcmc.org.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: CLARE tells tales for kids at Cover to Cover's Friday-morning story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: Bird & Beckett hosts CHILDREN'S STDY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: CHESS CLUB at the Excelsior Branch Library (ages 6 and older) runs from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. 4400 Mission. 355-2868.

March 6, 13, 21 & 27: Free teen PDTRY SLAM workshops at the Glen Park Library prepare for the 2009 Youth Speaks event. 4-6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 337-4740.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: Yell "BINGDI" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

March 6-28: BRIAN COPELAND performs *Not a Genuine Black Man* on Friday and Saturday. Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 5 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

March 7: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 7: James Lick School invites you to a SILENT AUCTION, overflowing with music, food, and biddable items. 6 pm. 1220 Noe. 695-5675; www.jameslickpta.org.

March 7: Local author JOYCE GOLDSTEIN discusses her books, including *Mediterranean Fresh and Italian Slow and Savory*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: BELLYDANCE BDOTCAMP with Andrea offers a fun and challenging workout. 11 am-noon. Valencia Muscle and Fitness, 333 Valencia. 510-290-6627.

March 7-April 5: Satirist CHARLIE VARON continues his solo portrayal of *Rabbi Sam*. Thurs. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 or 7 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.



Musician and dancehall deejay Nickodemus holds an album release party for *Sun People* March 8 at the Elbo Room on Valencia Street.

March 7-April 12: Gary Brewer and Gage Dpdenbrow exhibit new DIL PAINTINGS at ArtZone 461 Gallery. Reception March 7, 5-8 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; www.artzone461.com.

March 7-April 25: LUNATIDUE FANTASTIQUE performs *Executive Order 9066*, about a Japanese family's incarceration in a WWII internment camp. Sat., 1 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

March 8: The NOE VALLEY LIBRARY celebrates the first anniversary since reopening with jazz, refreshments, and a 2:30 pm program "Music Jam with Dylan." 2-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

March 8: Clift Albergotti, the first openly gay professor at USF, discusses his experiences at the monthly PFLAG SUPPDRT GRDUP. 2-4:30 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 921-8850.

March 8: Peter Reinhart reads from *The Bread Baker's Apprentice*, at Omnivore Books. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 8: DUB MISSION presents a performance of dancehall and reggae by Nickodemus, to introduce his second album, *Sun People*. 9 pm-2 am. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788.

March 8-15: The Crossroads IRISH AMERICAN Festival begins with storytelling by Joe McHugh and Tony Bucher. 1-4 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

March 9: Rachel Rodriguez discusses her children's books about Georgia O'Keeffe and Antonio Gaudi at ODD MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jisender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

March 10: Attend a free WDRKSHDP on how to present a case in small claims court; low-income encouraged. 6 pm. 760 Market, Suite 1042. 693-9811.

March 10: Dr. Jane M. Hightower discusses her book, *Diagnosis MERCURY: Money, Politics, and Poison*. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

March 10: Noe Valley author CARA BLACK tells secrets to writing her latest mystery, *Murder in the Latin Quarter*. 7 pm. 80 West Portal. 564-8080.

March 11: The Ithrd Mission STREETScape PLAN public meeting runs from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Women's Building. 3543 18th. 558-6383; missionstreets.sfplanning.org.

March 11, 18 & 25: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for newborns to 18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

March 12: Meet historian Bertie Mandelblatt, an expert on CREOLE FDD. 5:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 12-14 & 19-21: Jorge De Hoyos and Company perform the world premiere of DANCE THEATER experiment "Stick." 8 pm. Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, 1519 Mission. 800-838-3006; www.voicefactorysf.org.

March 12-22: The SF International Asian American FILM FESTIVAL offers 108 films, including the North American premiere of South Korea's *My Dear Enemy* at the Castro, and a documentary about Noe Valley musician Toshio Hirano at the Kabuki (see Short Takes). For schedule, see www.asianamericanmedia.org.



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SUN
MAR
8

PETER REINHART • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
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SAT
MAR
14

FLO BRAKER • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
Flo Braker, fabulous author of *Baking for All Occasions*, will answer all manner of baking questions, and bake treats for the event.

SAT
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21

TASTETV'S 2ND ANNUAL S.F. INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE SALON AT FT. MASON!
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THUR
MAR
26

MARK CARO • 6:00-7:00 PM FREE
Mark Caro will read from his new book, *The Foie Gras Wars*, and talk about the politics surrounding this volatile issue.

SAT
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28

NICOLETTE NIMAN • 3:00-4:00 PM FREE
Nicolette Niman will read from her new book, *Righteous Porkchop*, which highlights the caring small farms who are trying to revive heritage breeds.

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CALENDAR

March 12-April 8: Moby Dick bar exhibits "Drawn to Men," PEN ANO INK studies of the male form by William Ulrich. 2 pm-2 am. 4049 18th.

March 12-April 22: Creativity Explored hosts "TV AND ME," a group art exhibit depicting favorite shows through the years. Reception March 12, 7-9 pm; Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri., 10 am-3 pm.; Thurs., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

March 14: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market MUSIC features They Call Me Lucky from 8:30 am to 1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 14: Sally Love Saunders leads a CREATIVE WRITING workshop, "Everyone Is a Poet!" 11 am-12:30 pm. Cultural Integration Fellowship, 2650 Fulton. 831-9071.

March 14: The SF Vegetarian Society and Unitarian Universalists host a MEATOUT celebration with a cooking demo. 11 am-3:30 pm. Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin. Lunch reservations: 273-5481; www.sfvs.org.

March 14: Flo Braker, author of *BAKING for All Occasions*, answers your questions at Omnivore Books. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 14: A St. Patrick's IRISH DINNER Feast is served by the Men of St. Paul's. 6 pm. Parish Hall, 1690 Church. 648-7538.

March 14: Bid on 140 art works and nibble hors d'oeuvres at ARTSPAN's Benefit Art Show & Auction. 6:30-9 pm. 934 Brannan. 861-9838; www.ArtSpan.org.

March 14 & 15: The CRAFTS MARKET features decorative and functional pieces by 230 artists. 10 am-5 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. www.craftsource.org.

March 14 & 15: OOC School and Theater present "Pilot 54: On the In Between," new works by six CHOREOGRAPHERS. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. OOC Dance Commons, Studio B, 351 Shotwell. www.odtheater.org.

March 15: Hawaiian novelist MILTON MURIYAMA presents his book *Dying in a Strange Land* at 2 pm, and the Lowell Trio plays at 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

March 15: Radical Women hosts an International WOMEN'S DAY celebration, featuring a discussion of recent world events by a Palestinian woman and an Israeli-born anti-Zionist feminist. 3 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin, Suite 202. 864-1278.

March 15: Noe Valley Ministry offers a free JAZZ VESPER, featuring Gerry Grosz Jazz Kitchen. 5-6 pm. Upper Hall, 1021 Sanchez 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

March 15 & April 5: SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays through April. 1-3 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

March 16: Atlas Café hosts "Down to a Science," monthly discussions by local SCIENTISTS. 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafe.org.

March 17: Have a feast of corned beef and cabbage at ST. PATRICK'S DAY celebrations at the Oubliner, O'Greenberg's, and other local pubs. 11 am on. Oubliner: 826-2279; O'Greenberg's: 695-9216; Noe's Bar: 282-4007; Valley Tavern: 285-0674.

March 18: Budget officials discuss the ECONOMIC CRISIS at a meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 641-5838.

March 18: Lynn J. Rothschild from NASA explains "Why an Astronomer Should Care About ASTROBIOLOGY" at the SF Amateur Astronomers meeting. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

March 19: The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; www.evpa.org.

March 21: Diamond Moodie (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 21: High-schoolers can get the "dirt" on JOBS for the environment at Chrissy Field's free Eco-Career Day. 10 am-3 pm. Preregister 561-7767; epapito@park-conservancy.org.

March 21: The TIKI ISLANDO FAMILY FLING and silent auction, featuring live music and tropically inspired cuisine, benefits the Noe Valley Nursery School. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleynurseryschool.com.

March 21: Alvarado's "Not-So-SILENT AUCTION" features wine, getaways, and art, work, to benefit the school. 6-11 pm. Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline. 695-5695.

March 22: Winners of the 2008 Soul-Making LITERARY COMPETITION read and perform their works. 1-4 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.spl.org.

March 22: EASTENDERS Repertory Company performs excerpts from *Pride Open*, an exploration of sexual identity. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.spl.org.

March 22: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents "Six Degrees," a performance of American composers' themes by the San Francisco Piano Quartet. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

March 23: 96-year-old retired physics teacher Al Goldbaum and world travelers Ellis and Ellen Harris explain how they're still active in their 90s at OOO MONOAYS series. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

March 24: FILMS of interest to children ages 3 to 5 are shown at 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.spl.org.

March 24: Founder of Flock Home Linens Gina Pericini leads a workshop in APPLIQUE on linens (ages 18 and older). 6:30-8:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Preregistration required: 355-5707; www.spl.org.

March 24 & 31; April 7, 14, 21 & 28: "ECONOMICS for Activists: From the Chaos of Capitalism to the Socialist Solution" is a discussion circle sponsored by Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. 7-8:30 pm. El Cafetazo, 3087 16th. 864-1278.

March 25: Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts hosts "Luna Negra," a night of WOMEN'S LIVE ART. 2868 Mission. 821-1155. www.missionculturalcenter.org.

March 25: Local author Ruth Cohen discusses her struggle with BIPOLAR DISORDER in *Remains of a Cloud*, at the Excelsior Branch Arts and Culture Salon. 7-8:30 pm. Excelsior Library, 4400 Mission. 355-2868.

March 26: MARK CARO reads from his book *The Foie Gras Wars* at Omnivore Books. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 26: UPPER NOE Neighbors holds its monthly meeting at 7:30 pm at the Upper Noe Rec Center, Oay & Sanchez. 285-0473.

March 26: Monologist JOSH KORN-BLUTH performs "I Brake for Buber," an improvisation-in-progress. 8:30 pm. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission. 655-7800; www.thecjm.org.

March 28: Animal Care & Control hosts a Small Animal ADOPTION FAIR from 9 am to 1 pm at the Farmers' Market; music provided by Jude (8:30 am) and Michael Shaffer (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 28: Financial adviser Catherine Pinkas discusses "The ECONOMIC OOWNTURN" and how midlife and older women can plan for the future. 10 am-noon. Flood Building, Room 1185, 870 Market. 989-4422; www.owlst.org.

March 28: Nicolette Niman reads from her book *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

March 28: Winter Flowers, Eagle Winged Palace, and Randazzo Robinson perform at the Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 28: SONGWRITER co-op Blah Blah Woolf hosts a concert, "Songs to Lift Your Spirits," by Bev Barnett and Greg Newlon. 7:30 pm. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. www.brownpapertickets.com.

March 29: Karen Kelly gives a presentation on the life of SAINT PAUL the Apostle, as revealed through works of art. 2 pm. St. Paul Church, 221 Valley at Church. 648-7538. www.stpaulst.org.

March 29: The Switchboard MUSIC FESTIVAL features a nonstop, eight-hour marathon concert of music and dance. 2-10 pm. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th. 407-9794; www.switchboardmusic.com.

March 29: Walter Brents speaks about the life of the BUOOAH at 2:30 pm, and a concert by Michaela Spatt and the vocalese ensemble from the School of the Arts begins at 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

March 29: Take a sneak peak at Alessandro Solbiati's *Sestello a Gérard*, a performance of Italian NEW MUSIC, at ODC Oance Commons. 4:30 pm. 351 Shotwell. www.slcmp.org.

March 31: Therese Poletti discusses her book, *ART DECO San Francisco: The Architecture of Timothy Pflueger*, at the meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986. www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 1: Just! Awesome! Games hosts a BARBECUE. 816 Diamond. Call for time: 970-1484. www.justawesomemegames.com.

April 2-25: Carolyn Ooyle performs a SHOW about raising an autistic child in *Confessions of a Refrigerator Mother*. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

April 4: The OAHIA Society of California holds its annual tuber and cutting sale. 9 am until sold out. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. 994-2448.

April 4: Maria van Lieshout hosts a BOOK PARTY to celebrate the publication of *PEEP! A Little Book About Taking a Leap*. 5 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

April 4: JAZZ VOCALIST Kendra Shank performs with her quartet at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238. www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 5: Rocket OOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

April 6: Neil Fahy presents a slide lecture, "The SF EARTHQUAKE of 1906: Lessons in Leadership." 7:45-9 pm. Miraloma Park Improvement Club, 350 O'Shaughnessy. 281-0892; www.miralomapark.org.

ENCHANTED APRIL

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **April 2009** issue, distributed in Noe Valley by April 3. E-mail calendar items by **March 15** to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., SF, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events get priority, but we'll consider items from all over the city. Thank you.

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The Elizabeth Street Brewery: From Chocolate Milk to Firecracker Red

By Doug Konecky

On a quiet corner in the heart of Noe Valley is a blue building with a (not-too) secret life. In one of the building's condominiums live Richard and Alyson Brewer-Hay and their two small children. He's a corporate blogger for eBay, his wife a USIS investigator. So far: normal.

But on select weekends, the garage door of the condo flies open to reveal a sweet, wood-paneled hideaway, its walls lined with beer bottles. This little room that was formerly a storage area is now the home of Elizabeth Street Brewery (ESB). Yes, right across the street from the little park where you can chip your teeth on the water fountain because it never has enough water pressure, Richard and Alyson Brewer-Hay (he was Hay, she was Brewer) are managing to brew some of the tastiest craft beer in San Francisco. And when new beers become available, they open their "pub" to the public.

"I got married," Richard says, when asked why he began brewing his own beer. "I needed a hobby."

It's more than that. Hay is a Scottish clan name, and part of Richard's family is from Leeds, where his great-great-grandfather was the landlord of the largest pub in the north of England. So Richard comes by his brewcraft urge naturally. Still, he needed a place to do it.

That's when Alyson stepped in. (Remember, her family name is Brewer. Can this be a coincidence?) Not long after



Richard and Alyson Brewer-Hay occasionally share their home-brewed craft beer with the public, at their "Elizabeth Street Brewery" near Noe Courts park. Photo by Doug Konecky

moving into their condo in 2003, she and Richard had built a "guys room" out of an old storage area and filled it with the requisite poker table and recliner. But Richard had been brewing his beer in a kettle on their stove upstairs, and Alyson knew he needed a larger space. So she contacted the TV makeover program *While You Were Out*, and the production company arrived with cameras. In 48 hours, the guys room had been remade into a comfortable little pub, and Elizabeth Street Brewery had its brand new home. (See Voice, December 2005 issue.)

Richard keeps his coils and his wort and his sparge tanks and the rest of his brewer's paraphernalia behind cabinet doors in the pub, so it can bubble away while guests sit on chairs or a sofa, watch sports on TV, and taste and talk about the beer. The brewery now has the capacity

to turn out the maximum the home-brewing law allows: up to 200 gallons, per family, per year.

This is great stuff. We tasted Daddy's Chocolate Milk, a delicious dark beer with the light texture of a lager but the sweet taste and color of a porter.

The writer's wife, a fan of India Pale Ale, usually disparages dark beer: "You call that beer? It's candy!" But after doing some tasting on Super Bowl Sunday, she is now a convert: "I think that's the best beer I've ever tasted."

Bearing in mind that Richard and Alyson have two daughters, Addison (age 2) and Quincy (three months), here are the names of the other three beers in normal rotation: Addison's Firecracker Red, Quincy's Winter Warmer, and Mummy's Double Honey Ale.

A brew pub in Noe?

"I knew the minute I saw 24th Street that I wanted to live here and put my pub here," Richard says. They looked a long time before finding their space on the corner of Douglass Street, and now that they're here, Richard is determined to stay. He'll continue to use ingredients locally grown or at least sold locally, he says. He buys honey from the Noe Valley Farmers' Market for Mummy's Double Honey Ale, Bernie's coffee for the Quincy's Winter Warmer, and is trying to secure a regular supply of local raspberries for Addison's Firecracker Red.

You won't find the brewery open every weekend, but you can check the web site (www.elizabethstreetbrewery.com) for up-to-the-minute information. Bear in mind that the law does not allow Richard and Alyson to sell their beer; at open houses you are permitted to show your pleasure by making a donation, if you choose, or purchasing a T-shirt or cap with the Elizabeth Street Brewery logo. The caps are also available at Bernie's Café on 24th Street.

If Richard Brewer-Hay has his way, he will one day be brewing his beers and selling them from a shop on 24th Street. Until then, we can keep up with his and Alyson's progress by stopping by the blue house when the pub is open. Daddy's Chocolate Milk is worth the trip. ■



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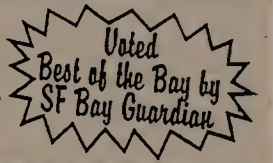
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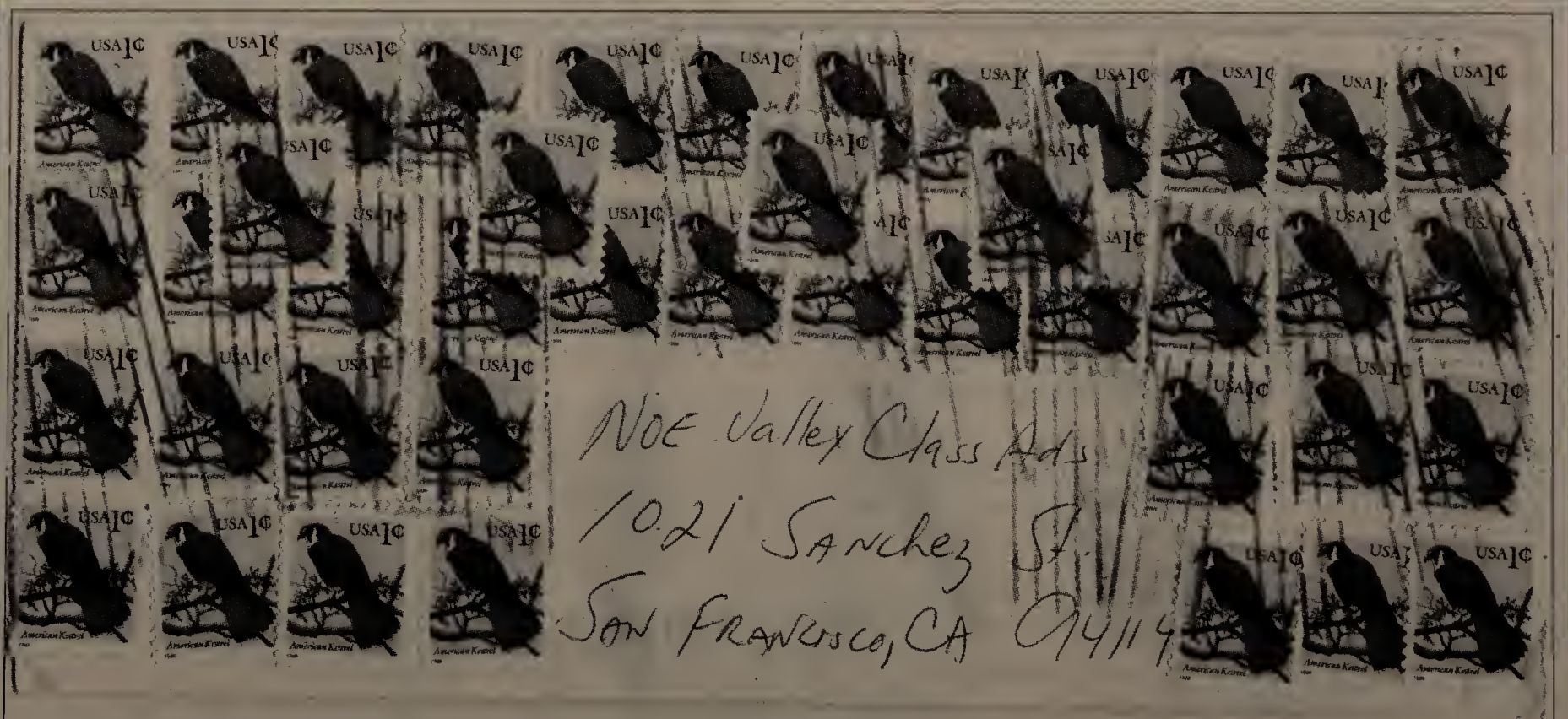


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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we visit a store specializing in board games, and a new American-fare restaurant on 24th Street.

JUST AWESOME! THE BOARD GAME STORE

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Generally speaking, businesses that make a habit of playing games with their customers don't go far. But there are exceptions, like Just Awesome! The Board Game Store, which opened its doors near the corner of Diamond and 24th streets on Dec. 21.

"If we don't know how to play it, we'll learn it with you," says Shane Alan, who co-owns the shop with partner Erik Mantsch.

The pair decided to open the store after relocating in 2008 from Portland to San Francisco, which they first visited during a West Coast road trip last February. As they explored the city, they were immediately taken with the neighborhood.

"I fell in love with Noe Valley. We both grew up in small cities, and we like that this is a small town in a small city," says Mantsch.

Both Alan, a behavior analyst who works with developmentally disabled adults, and Mantsch, who served as a senior airman in the Air Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom, share a love for games of all kinds. But they decided to devote their store to board games and other hands-on amusements, ranging from cards to dice to dominoes.

"There's something about that interpersonal connection that you don't get playing a Wii," says Alan, referring to Nintendo's latest video game console.

The store stocks classic board games such as Monopoly and Parcheesi, and strategy games like Checkers. It also has less well-known games like Mancala, whose African origins date back to the sixth century A.D. There is a section devoted to popular European games, such as the German multi-player board game Settlers of Catan; Pandemic, about stopping the spread of disease around the world; and Agricola, a family farm game ranked number one by the Board Game Geek website.

For kids, the store has a good supply of educational games—some teaching shapes and colors, others facts and figures, and yet others verbal and social skills. Prices at Just Awesome! range from less than a dollar for a pair of dice, to \$70 for Agricola, currently the store's



Just Awesome! owners Shane Alan (left) and Erik Mantsch have their hands full, playing games all day. Photo by Pamela Gerard

most expensive offering.

Also available at the shop is an original game inspired by a chance encounter Mantsch had while serving in Iraq. One day, it fell to Mantsch to escort a teenage Iraqi back to his base. Neither spoke the other's language. While the two waited in silence to be picked up from the side of a deserted road, the boy collected several stones and drew a grid in the sand. Despite the language barrier, the boy was able to teach Mantsch a game to pass the time.

Upon his return to the United States, Mantsch created his own version of the game and named it Thalatha (Arabic for "three"). It features a hand-printed canvas square and a set of small stones, and can be tied up and pocketed for easy transport. A portion of the proceeds from the game go to benefit the nonprofit Operation Iraqi Children.

Other notable aspects of the store include free gift wrap, free shipping to any APO-FPO address, and an open-box policy that allows customers to open and play any game before buying it. A back game room outfitted with tables and decorated with vintage board game boxes offers a spot for group play. Game nights, tournaments, and new-game learning nights are among the different community events Alan and Mantsch plan to hold at the store in the coming months.

A grand-opening celebration and barbecue is scheduled to take place at the store on April 1. During March, the store will hold a contest to benefit local classrooms. The prize is a \$25 gift certificate for the winner and a box of board games for the classroom of the winner's choice. The drawing is March 31.

Just Awesome! is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Note that the store is often closed on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., when the owners run the Awesome Games Club at Alvarado Elementary School.

CITY GRILL

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Local restaurateur Stefano Coppola didn't have to go far to find a home for his second local venture. In fact, he didn't even leave the block.

On Jan. 18, Coppola, who owns Lupa Trattoria at 4109 24th Street, opened City Grill in the adjacent building at 4123 24th Street, in the storefront formerly occupied by Kookez Cafe (and before that, Miss Millie's).

"It's basically a neighborhood grill," says Coppola. "We have a very simple American menu. It goes from steak to pork chops to fish, and at least one fish special every night."

Opening a new restaurant next door to one you already own might seem like a great way to poach customers from yourself, but Coppola says the location next to Lupa was actually part of the draw.

"I am not so sure what got into me in this kind of economy," he says, laughing. "But I think it was a great opportunity. It was right next to me and easy to manage. I love the space, and I love the neighborhood."

Entrees on the dinner menu at City Grill range from a natural Angus beef burger (\$11.50) to pan-roasted duck breast with blood orange sauce and garlic mashed potatoes (\$18) to an Angus beef New York steak (\$23.50). A vegetarian option is also available each evening. In the coming weeks, Coppola plans to add a house macaroni and cheese dish.

During weekend brunch, the restaurant serves all the usual suspects, including scrambles and omelets (\$9-\$9.50), as well as house specialties like the chilaquiles (\$10.50), a concoction of tortilla chips and sauteed onions, eggs, and chicken in an *arbol* chile sauce. Other



City Grill waiter Mike Rodriguez serves brunchers Chris Allen and Gladys Mananggit. Photo by Pamela Gerard

standouts on the brunch menu include a starter of mussels and fries (\$9.50), Italian sausage hash topped with a poached egg (\$11.50), and lemon ricotta pancakes with blueberry syrup (\$9).

While the restaurant doesn't offer a separate kids menu, Coppola says City Grill will be glad to whip up special dishes for younger diners upon request.

"Whatever we can do for the kids, we will be happy to accommodate," he says.

City Grill is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday, starting at 5:30 p.m., and offers weekend brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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The grand master bedroom has a huge walk-in closet and master bathroom. The family room has another fireplace, a speaker system ready for plasma TV enjoyment, a bar, and beautiful built-ins ideal for displaying valued items or storage. There is a two car side by side garage, new roof, water heater, furnace and double pane windows. A yard and several decks complete this home. Built in 1961, this grand home boasts a great space and a wonderful quiet setting; it is centrally located, with access to great shopping, parks, Glen Park, Noe Valley, and the freeway. A great value! **More information at www.danhendel.com.**

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Karin Payson and **Michael Fasman** brought their hometown newspaper to the Alagar Koil temple near Madurai in India.

Spring Is Really the Right Time for Reading All Over

March may bring some rain and cool temperatures, but that's unlikely to force locals to seek other climates. Noe Valleyans just like to travel. Living in the best neighborhood in the world means it's so good to come home again. And if they miss 24th Street, they can always take a vivid reminder with them: a copy of the *Noe Valley Voice*. And the communicators among them can fill us in on their adventures by mailing photos and caption info to: *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or by e-mailing editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Join them, join us. Write to us today.



Andrea Glass takes a timeout at the Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Florida. A boardwalk snakes through the habitat where one can view egrets, great blue herons and alligators.

Photo by husband Philip Gerrie



Cecelia Guddini, formerly of Jersey Street, makes it into this photo of Dover Castle in England with a vintage September 2008 edition of her favorite paper.



Kevin Davison and **Megan Carboni** enjoyed their vacation reading on the sunny Ko Phi Phi islands off the coast of Krabi province, Thailand.



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Above and to the west of Noe Valley the tops of Sutro Tower appear like a sailing ship of the air.

Noe Valley Skies



A 23rd Street View of St. James Catholic Church on 23rd and Guerrero Streets on a rainy morning in March.

Photos by Jack Tipple



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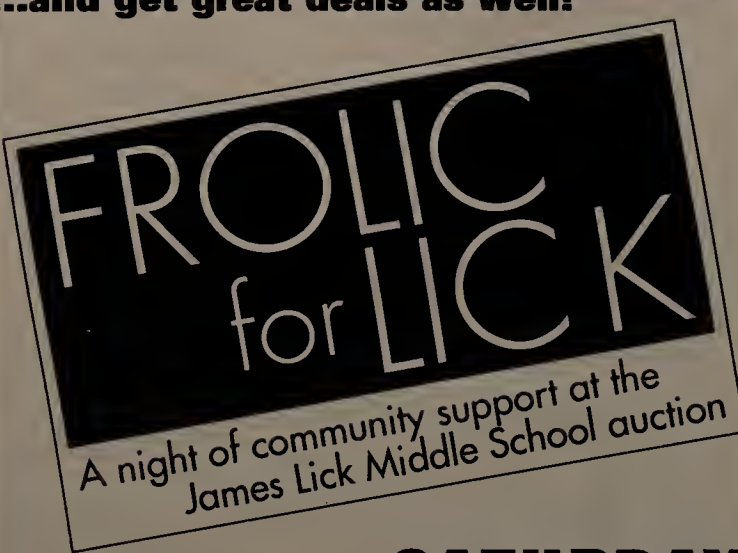
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auction items will be listed soon

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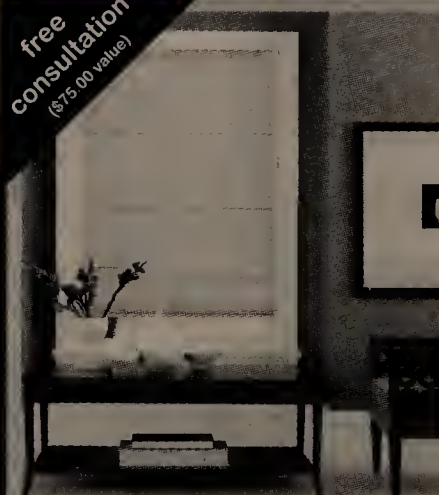
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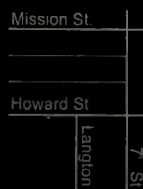
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 Lunch Break: 12:00 noon - 12:30 pm
 Afternoon Session: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm (3:00 pm for K-1)
 Extended Care: 8:00 am - 9:00 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Weekly Cost

Grades K - 1: \$150 morning; \$275 all day.
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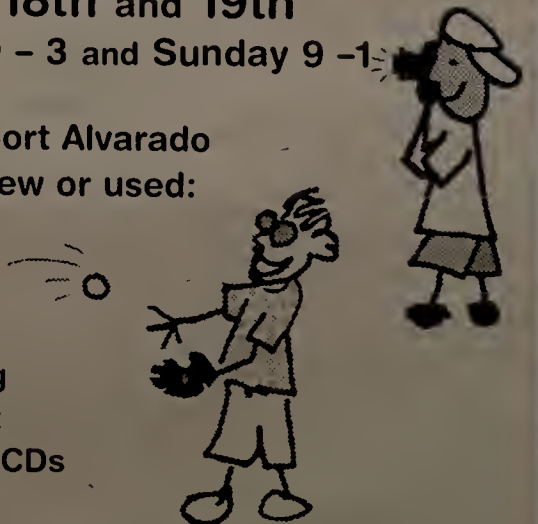
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

One-Year Anniversary Coming Up

The Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library is celebrating a year of grand operation since its grand renovation, with a party on Sunday, March 8 (*see details under Library Events*). As it awaits the festivities, the branch will continue loaning out books and collecting new reads for your amusement and edification. A few of the latest acquisitions, including children’s books suggested by librarian Carol Small, are listed below. To check out your favorites, drop by the library, at 451 Jersey Street. Locals should note that the branch is now open Tuesday through Sunday and is sponsoring more adult programming, such as the “Pride Open” theater event on Sunday, March 22. To contact Small or branch manager Alice McCloud, call 355-5707. For online library news, go to www.sfpl.org.

Children’s Fiction

- Yoko can write her name in Japanese, but she struggles to read and write in English; when her kindergarten class gets their diplomas, their names are written in both languages, in *Yoko Writes Her Name* by Rosemary Wells. Ages 4 to 5.
- In *Thump, Quack, Moo...A Whacky Adventure* by Doreen Cronin, the chickens, the cows, and Duck get ready for the Corn Maze Festival. Ages 4 to 6.
- Traveling west in a pioneer wagon train, brave Hallie gets over her fear of storms when she witnesses the wildest weather imaginable, in *The Buffalo Storm* by Katherine Applegate, with illustrations by Jan Ormerod. Ages 6 to 8.
- Nancy Mercado edits *Baseball Crazy: 10 Short Stories That Cover All the Bases*, told from the viewpoint of both players and spectators. Ages 9 and up.
- When Tom becomes ill, he and his brother John travel across England to find a temporary home for their mind-reading dog Mouse, in *A Dog for Life* by L.S. Matthews. Ages 10 and up.

Children’s Nonfiction

- *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* is a collection of essays, stories, poems, sketch journals, and letters to the president by 108 children’s book authors and illustrators. Ages 9 and up.
- An orphaned gentlewoman in Victorian England inherits a haunted mansion and is determined to unravel its mysteries in *The Seance* by John Harwood.
- David Vann’s *Legend of a Suicide* examines an Alaskan father’s tragedy from the perspective of his son, in five stories and a novella.
- In *Running Mother and Other Stories*, Guo Songfen examines contemporary Tai-

wanese culture and history, told by its troubled citizens.

Adult Nonfiction

- *New York Times* war correspondent Dexter Filkins describes his work in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq since 1998 in *The Forever War*.
- In *Freedom by Any Means*, journalist Betty DeRamus writes about 19th-century slaves and freedmen, caught up in “con games, voodoo schemes, true love, and law-suits on the Underground Railroad.”

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

LIBRARY EVENTS

Library Celebration Features ‘Music Jam with Dylan’

■ Friends, neighbors, and staff of the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library invite you to come celebrate the first anniversary of the library’s reopening, at an afternoon of live jazz, refreshments, and prizes on Sunday, March 8, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Kids (and adults) can join the “Music Jam with Dylan” at 2:30 p.m. That would be Dylan Donkin, playing songs, shakers, and percussion instruments.

Sexual Identity ‘Pride Open’ by Eastenders Repertory Co.

■ On Sunday, March 22, 2 to 3 p.m., San Francisco’s Eastenders Repertory Company will perform excerpts from *Pride Open*, a theater work exploring sexual identity through dramatic scenes, monologues, poetry, music, and dance. The full production will be staged April 2-11 at Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy Street.

Appliqué 101 for Adults

■ At *Appliqué 101*, on Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m., Oakland clothing designer Gina Pericini, of Flock Home Linens, will show you how to take scraps of fabric—“think gingham, vintage floral prints, linen, African prints, [and] little toadstool clusters and birds”—and appliqué them onto a pot holder, apron, or tea towel. This free class, for ages 18 and older, is limited to 15 and requires advance signup. Drop by the branch.

It’s Family Story Time

■ The library holds *Family Story Time* on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 31, from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The read-aloud program is aimed at children who are 5 or younger.

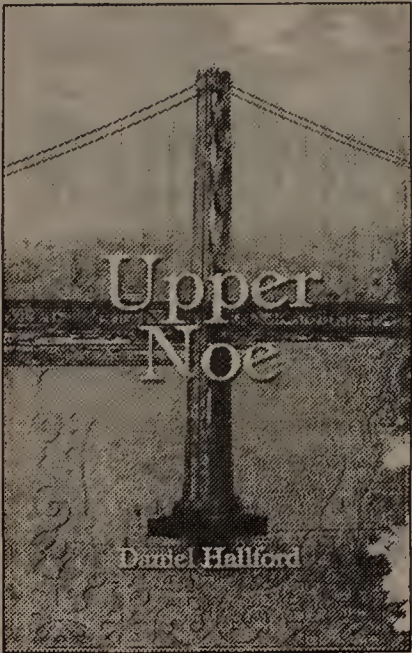
Double Feature for Kids

■ Kids ages 3 to 5 are invited to come watch a half-hour of *Short Films* on Tuesday, March 24, starting at 10:15 a.m. The program will repeat at 11 a.m.

Toddler Tales Unveiled

■ Treat your baby or toddler, age 18 months to 3 years old, to books, rhymes, music, and motion at *Toddler Tales*, offered on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17 & 31, at 10:15 a.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 355-5707.



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Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 (Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)						
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10-6	10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6	
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	1-9	10-9	10-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

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7	D	O	M	I			25	S	E	A	L		D	A	L	Y		
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9	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C											
10							27	I	P	O	D							
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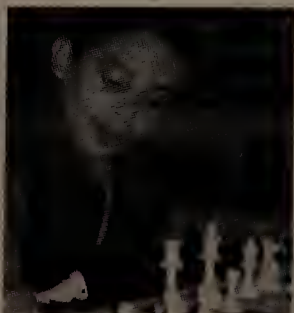


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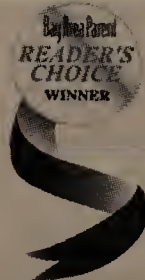


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SCHOOL REPORT

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The Voice asked three local public schools—Fairmount, James Lick, and Alvarado—to come up with a wish list for this month's School Report. You might be surprised at the simple things—pens, kickballs, Kleenex—the students and staff are yearning for.

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What else?

Pencils.

And more pencils.

Oh, and paper.

In these trying times, the biggest request was the basics.

On a second survey, though, they popped up with a few more ideas:

Teachers in the upper grades need black Expo markers, enough for the whole class to use at the same time. Every classroom needs glue sticks.

Bonnie Taylor, who is a special education teacher for third through fifth grades, said, "I would love a fish tank that comes with a heater and a filter. I am trying to do more science activities with my students and also at the same time trying to teach them responsibility. A fish tank seems like a perfect way to fill those needs."

Maureen Sullivan, a fifth-grade teacher, requests "eraser tops, dry-erase markers, Kleenex, card stock, glue sticks, and prizes for our positive-incentive raffle."

"I would love to have a really good, electric, professional pencil sharpener," said Noah Weaker, who teaches fourth-grade English. "There aren't any good pencils and kids are always fighting over them, so we'd always love to have pencils, and with an electric sharpener, they wouldn't have to spend all day at the sharpener."

Ms. Cerruda would like printer ink for her HP 56, 57, 58 printers, and glue sticks!

Every classroom needs good, clean throw rugs. If you can donate one, that would be a tremendous help.

Teachers would love little prizes (from the dollar store) for kids who have done well in school or exhibited exceptional behavior. Their names are sometimes put in a raffle. When the names are drawn, the students get prizes.

Balls for recess. Rubber balls, kickballs, basketballs, and soccer balls are used often for recess (and physical fitness), and there are never enough to go around.

One mother who is a frequent volunteer said, "It's not sexy, but we really need paper!"

She added, "Printer and copier paper, white and any and all colors. The school is very careful to keep paper use to a minimum, but we still go through lots and have very little."

Fiesta Wares

You have items that don't quite fit into the school wish list? Donate them for FiestaVal! We can always use items or services that can be raffled off to raise money for the school during our May fundraising party, which has lots of entertainment,

excitement, and an auction, which always includes generous donations from Noe Valley shops and restaurants.

Of course, the kids have their own ideas. "A skateboard ramp!" cried out a group of students when they were asked about a wish list. Sorry, kids, your safety's a little too important for that.

Have something in a back closet that you'd like to give to Fairmount? Come on down to 65 Chenery Street, or call 695-5669 to arrange a dropoff.

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Local restaurants continue to help us by hosting Fairmount nights, when a share of their profits is donated to the school. The latest "night" was held at Good Frikin' Chicken, which serves delicious Mediterranean food at 29th and Mission streets.

This type of donation continues the Fairmount trend of helping each other out. With a generous donation to the school, restaurants often find that they've invested in a good amount of public relations; families discover their delicious meals and come back, again and again.

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HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10-percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the April 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting April 1.

The deadline for Class Ads is March 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. Thank you for your support.

CLAS ADS

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Repairs with a Woman's Touch. Handywoman Julie will repair those inside and outside problems you aren't getting to and wish you could. Get reliable, friendly, and creative help now. Picture-hanging, window repairs, lock replacement, door adjustments, furniture assembly, baby-proofing, minor plumbing, and electrical. Call Julie Panger, Repairs with a Woman's Touch, 415-517-4013.

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Negotiable-Rate Catsitting in Noe Valley and adjacent neighborhoods. Conscientious, reliable, tuned in to cats (and humans), retired 30-year Noe Valley resident, 10-year local cat-sitter. Return to a contented cat, a secure home, and a thriving garden. References on request. Lucy, 415-282-3676; lumar9@att.net.

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Licensed Family Day Care: In Mission District. Bilingual English and Spanish. Children 3 months to 4 years old. Hours 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Provide curriculum, portfolio, indoor and outdoor activities, circle time. Questions: e-mail to visit my daycare, azucenafamilydaycare@ymail.com. 415-867-7647. Website: azucenafamilydaycare.synthasite.com.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Supportive, patient teacher with many years of experience. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire. Barbara Bannett, 415-648-1007.

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Bed & Breakfast "Cottage Gate." Charming studio with queen bed, kitchenette, breakfast choices. Private entrance (no steps), bath, cable; 20th and Douglass streets. 415-626-6497. JimDiDL@aol.com. Photos: www.vacationrentals.com/vacation-rentals/10961.html.

Carroll Painting Inc., License #905757. Interior/exterior painting. 415-310-6571. www.carrollpaintinginc.typepad.com.

Piano Lessons. All ages welcome. Over 20 years of experience. Lessons are taught in a private condominium on a grand piano. First lesson and consultation is free. Contact Melanie at 650-776-3953.

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Experienced Therapist expanding private practice in Noe Valley. Interactive, supportive. Specializations include parenting, child custody, and alternative families. Much background with recovery from sexual abuse, codependency, and substance abuse. Brief problem-focused or longer-term therapy available. Audrey Adelson, LCSW, lic. #15293. 415-260-0037.



Overwhelmed by Clutter? Closets? As featured on HGTV, NPR, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ShipShape offers expert, simple solutions to what goes where. We cut through clutter, defrazzle moves, install closets, and restore simplicity and peace of mind to busy lives. Home, office, packing, closets, and more. 415-550-0658. www.shipshape.com.

Village Pet Care. Dog walks, boarding, bathing, and overnight. Birds, cats, fish, reptiles too. Now accepting holiday reservations. Say "Dogs are the new children" and receive \$25 off/two-day minimum. Donna Mori, 415-206-1951; lavendergreendesign@gmail.com.

Jazz Guitar Lessons/Improvisation Theory. Improve technique and knowledge of guitar fingerboard while developing your own style. \$50. Bruno Pelletier-Bacquaert, 648-6992, www.brunojazz.com.

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Stereo Repair/Home Theater Installation. Gene's Sound Service offers expert repair/service and home theater installation at your home, office, or shop with day, evening, or Saturday appointments available. Lots of local references with very many satisfied and quite happy customers. "Gene's so fair and honest, he's the kind of guy you could trust to do a house call for your elderly mother." — Rich Crowl, owner, The Sound Well Used Stereos, Berkeley. Advice on maintaining your system gladly given. Call Gene at 415-377-1258. www.genessoundservice.com.

Home Maintenance "Checkup." What is a home maintenance "checkup"? It can be compared to a routine physical at your doctor's office. Just like a doctor would prescribe a course of action for you to stay in good health, this service will provide you with information and steps you need to take to keep your home in good condition. For more details, please call Danielle, 415-861-5764, or visit our website, www.jillofalltrades.net.

PC Tutoring: Introduction to Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet by a very patient community college teacher. Special offer: one and a half hours for \$45. 415-820-1670; cfebcom@gmail.com.

Drop-In Hatha Yoga. Learn yoga postures, deep relaxation, breath, and meditation techniques. We offer Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced Hatha Yoga, as well as Restorative Yoga, Neck and Shoulders, etc., H.I.V., and Gentle Yoga classes. Classes daily. \$12 (\$9 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 821-1117.

Your Trees are part of your investment, and part of your habitat. They deserve expert, quality care. Beautiful work and personal tree service by ISA Certified Arborist. Beautiful work and expert care. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. Call Martin Arnest at 415-882-1109; or e-mail treepro@comcast.net. www.sfreetreepro.com. CA Lic. #829012.

Deluxe Dog Boarding in Private Residence on Potrero Hill with two dogs (we board one dog at a time). \$40/day. Call Patrick, 415-550-7761.

Village Tutor. K-8 math, GED/HS exit exam, ESL/TOEFL/Business English. Quality childcare 24/7 on call. Say "Carpentry for kids" and receive \$20 off first hour. Donna Mori, 415-206-1951; lavendergreendesign@gmail.com.

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Living Tai Chi of Noe Valley. Chris Sequeira conducts tai chi movement, qigong, and meditation for self-awareness and holistic wellness. Tuesday, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Wednesday and Friday, 10:15 a.m. to noon, Walter Haas Playground, Diamond Heights and Addison. Call 415-773-8185. Livingtaichiprinciples.blogspot.com. Livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

Garden Cottage in the Heart of Noe Valley. Perfect for visiting friends and family. Secluded and detached with private deck. Completely furnished. Queen bed and twin sleeper couch. Fully equipped kitchen. Short-term rental. Minimum two nights. Non-smoking. 415-970-8177. For more information, search Vacation Rentals/Noe Valley; <http://sfhay.craigslist.org/>.

Piano Lessons and Trumpet Lessons. At home instruction available for Noe Valley residents. Beginning adults and children ages 6 and up. Contact person: Marina Garza, 415-269-7507. Over 10 years of teaching experience. Bachelor's and master's degrees in music education and jazz studies.

Charlie the Phone Guy: Residence, business, home office telephone wiring. Fax/modem lines, DSL, Ethernet, VOIP! Dead jacks brought back to life! Remodel planning. On-time appointments! Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. 641-8410. Charlie@sfphoneguy.com.

Garden Cleanups and Makeovers. Is your garden sad and weary? Let us transform it to vibrant health and beauty! Carlin's Gardens—15 years in Noe Valley. Call Carlin, 415-826-3127; carlinel@fastmail.fm; www.carlinsgardens.com. Carlin's Gardens—Your Nature Connection!

Submissions: The *Noe Valley Voice* invites submissions of stories, poems, and essays. E-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you need your materials returned. Thank you.

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Every Noe Valley Home deserves a responsive and loyal handyman with decades of experience and expertise in plaster, paint, repairs, and remodeling. Call 786-4534.

Stay in SF Short-Term Rental. Large, comfortable, two-bedroom, fully furnished flat in Noe Valley for vacation rental. Restaurants, coffeehouses, markets, transportation all outside your door. Daily, weekly, monthly rates available. No pets. No smoking. Leave a message at 415-282-0899 or e-mail stayinsf@hotmail.com. For a look around the apartment, go to <http://stayinsf.googlepages.com/>.

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Picture Framing and Mat Cutting. 50 to 70 percent less than anyone in the city. Bernal Heights. Phone for price. Douglas Elliott. Museum-standard. 550-9248.

San Francisco Gardens Can Thrive in every season. Now is the time to lay the groundwork for a successful spring. Specializing in quality garden maintenance, drought-tolerant native garden design, edible landscapes, specialty pruning, and irrigation. Excellent references. Call Ecological Horticulturist Richard Meacham, 415-298-1339.

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How to Place A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

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The Voice Web Site

has news and photos from the current issue, and searchable archives dating back to 1996.

www.noevalleyvoice.com

St. Patrick's Irish Dinner Feast

Served by The Men of St. Paul's

March 14th – 6 p.m.

Mario P. Farana Parish Hall in St. Paul's School
1690 Church Street

The Men of St. Paul's will be serving their annual St. Patrick's Irish Dinner Feast on Saturday, March 14th. Live Irish music and dancing will follow a scrumptious meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, Irish soda bread and a special dessert!

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Parking is available in the lot behind the school through the gate on 29th Street

We'll see you there!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE RECTORY AT 221 VALLEY ST.

\$15 in advance for Adults and \$5 for Children 12 and under

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 648-7538



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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Oh, My God (and Yours)

By Mazook

CANDLE IN THE WIND: It was front-page news in the February issue of the *Voice*, Corrie Anders' story about Father Tony La Torre of St. Philip's Church urging his parishioners to boycott Just for Fun for displaying that "saint" Obama candle in its front window. La Torre's statement that the 24th Street store sold items that "mock and ridicule the Catholic/Christian faith" and that the shop's owner "happens to be Jewish" (not true) created a storm of controversy, first in Noe Valley and then around the world. (See *Letters*, page 7.)

When the *San Francisco Chronicle* got wind of the neighborhood's icono-clash, it dispatched columnist Andy Ross (of *Matier & Ross* fame) to 24th Street to investigate. Ross wrote a piece for the *Chron's* Feb. 15 (Sunday) paper, which was immediately duped on the *sfgate* website. By the following Tuesday, the story was being reported worldwide—by everyone from Fox News to the *Huffington Post*, *NBC News Bay Area* to *World Net Daily*, the *Turkish Weekly* to a church website in Arkansas.

"The response was incredible," said Just for Fun co-owner David Eiland, who with Robert Ramsey has been selling stationery, games, toys, wrapping paper, and irreverent gag items and cards in Downtown Noe Valley for 23 years. Eiland said that within 24 hours of Ross's story hit-

ting *sfgate*, more than 200 comments from around the globe had been posted in response. Then KPIX Channel 5, Telemundo (14), and Fox TV sent news crews to Just for Fun, and to St. Philip's as well, and put the story on their evening news.

"We got a call from the *David Letterman Show* about the controversy, and then the producers from Ron Owens' KGO radio show called," said Ramsey. Ron Owens was trying to have Father Tony and the Just for Fun owners participate in a live discussion, with people calling in questions. "We said fine with us, but we never heard back," Ramsey said.

"This neighborhood has been incredibly supportive, and this whole experience has been a ton of fun," said Eiland, "and I was somewhat surprised at how many priests have come in with words of support. Even John Conley, the retired assistant pastor of St. Philip's, came by with four priests, one of whom I was told was from Rome. He was buying a candle for his friend who is the head of the Franciscan Order, which I thought was very interesting. And then Pastor Bohnert from Mission Dolores came by and bought a candle.

"And then our mail orders for the Obama candle shot up, and we are shipping orders to almost every state in the USA and around the world," said Eiland. "Probably the strangest order was the request we ship six candles to 'Invest Iraq Today' in Baghdad. The candles were \$14.95 each with no tax, and the shipping costs were just over \$300."

Many of the mail orders, according to Eiland, have been from priests and ministers, "and many of them sent back thank-you notes!"

Father La Torre said in late March: "I have reflected on what I have said, and my feelings are the same. The image on the candle is still an anti-Catholic symbol and [the owners of Just for Fun] contin-

ue to be antagonistic by keeping the display in their front window [along with] Jesus breath mints, which [is another] slap to the face of our Supreme Father. The display has been there since before Christmas and is still there. They have never kept any other display in the front window this long," he claimed.

"I offered to meet with [the Just for Fun] owners but they didn't want to meet," said Father Tony.

As for the support Just for Fun is receiving from other priests, Father La Torre said somewhat incredulously, "If that is true, then I feel sorry for those priests. I have received several dozen telephone calls, so many my voice mail became overloaded, and many e-mails in support. I have been able to see the many comments on the Internet."

To keep up with the cyber cyclone over his remarks, he simply Googled his name, he said.

If you Google "Father Tony La Torre," you can keep up with the debate. The February *Voice* story comes up third in a list of about 27,000 sites chattering about La Torre; a September 2004 Rumors item, about Father Tony's arrival in Noe Valley, shows up on Google's third page. You can also find both articles in our archives at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

The last week of February, *Chronicle* columnist Andy Ross told the *Voice* he has had a large response to his story. He thinks it is because "it's one of those 'very San Francisco' items that people around the world can relate to, and why San Francisco always finds a way to put itself on the worldwide news map."

☎ ☎ ☎

SWAP TALKING: Life became surreal for Noe Valley residents Stephen Fowler and his wife Renee Stephens when they and their children appeared on the ABC reality show *Wife Swap* at the end of Jan-

uary. Seemingly within hours of its airing on Jan. 30, the show hit YouTube, where the video replays became a worldwide obsession. A website called *StephenFowlerSucks.com* materialized overnight. The world was evidently shocked by Fowler's behavior toward the Midwestern mom who came to Noe Valley for the husband-wife swap. He revealed himself either as a very mean man or a very good actor.

By Feb. 6, Fowler, who was described by the show's producers as "a British-born environmental entrepreneur," and his wife Stephens, a "life coach and certified weight-loss hypnotherapist," wrote a public apology on Renee's website, "Inside Out Weight Loss."

Neighbors reported a lot of activity near the Fowlers' home, which then got more publicity locally when Channel 7 ran a story on the fury, showing the pair (in a *Wife Swap* clip) walking in Downtown Noe Valley and having a munch at Peasant Pies.

Rumors that Fowler will be moving to Hollywood to continue his acting career as a bad guy icon are not true. He is now, according to Renee's blog, in therapy.

By the way, the buzz is that the *Wife Swap* producers recently sent a letter to the San Francisco Motorcycle Club, inviting members and their spouses to contact them, presumably to swap with a Boston lawyer and professor spouse. Geez, if they wanted to get super cutting-edge, why didn't they write a letter to Dykes on Bikes?

☎ ☎ ☎

FROM RUSSIA WITH GOLD: Clipper Street resident James Berg has recently given a jewel-encrusted gold tabernacle from Russia to St. Nicholas Antiochian Russian Orthodox Church in Diamond Heights. The icon was reportedly made in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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OIL CHANGE

RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

the workshop of Alexy II (1929-2008), who was a native of Estonia and rose through the ranks of the Russian Orthodox Church to become the 15th Patriarch of Moscow, around the time of the fall of the Soviet Union. The tabernacle was purchased in the 1990s and brought to—where else?—Noe Valley.

In thanks, Father Nicholas Borzghoi wrote a letter to Berg. "Given these difficult economic times, it is doubtful that we would have been able to acquire such a unique liturgy vessel. It will be a great addition to our altar, where we plan on keeping it."

You can view this stunning icon at St. Nicholas, which is located up on the corner of Duncan Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard.



SHORT SHRIFTS: It looks like Deep Sushi, closed since Christmas, will be going through a change in ownership since a Notice of Transfer of the liquor license was posted on the front window on Feb. 27....

Contigo's Brett Emerson sent us an e-mail after we reported he would finally open on Feb. 17. There's been one more delay, but dinner was set to be served to the public starting March 3. This seems to be a reality, since friends and family were attending private dinners at Contigo the last week of February. The *Voice* will do a Store Trek about Contigo next month....

It does not look like Noe Soup will be opening soon, if at all, in the space on

24th above Castro where B.J. Droubi's office used to be, since nothing has been done since plans were approved last October. Rumor has it that the anticipated costs skyrocketed, and an investor pulled out of the project.

Meanwhile, Basso Steak House is responding to the recession by giving seniors a 15 percent discount. And Cover to Cover is offering free book delivery.

Tom Maravilla, formerly of Mikeytom Market on Church Street, is set to join a Peninsula mortgage brokerage firm....

There were rumors floating around 24th Street that Peet's Coffee was looking for a spot on our main street....

But Noe Valley's Tom Mazzolini announced that his San Francisco Blues Festival would take a leave of absence this year due to the economic blues.

Word comes from some of your favorite Bell clerks who transferred to the Cala/Bell on Hyde and California streets that they are seeing many of you making the trek to the Ralphs chain's last stronghold in San Francisco.

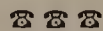


DRIVING ON: It was a short stay in Downtown Noe Valley for the California State Automobile Association (CSAA). Ribbons were cut at its grand opening last April, and a 12-person staff was there to respond to what AAA said customers wanted: neighborhood offices.

Well, the staff was told at the end of February that Triple-A will be closing its Noe Valley office on March 27. According to AAA spokesperson Jenny Mack, some of the Noe Valley staff will be transferred to other locations and some will be laid off. That will leave five offices remaining in the city.

The reason for the closure, said Mack, was that the company was closing 17 offices in three states based on population

and customer use. AAA cut 250 jobs. Mack said that another consideration for closing Noe Valley was the proximity of the Potrero Hill branch, on Potrero and 16th streets. Huh?



NOE QUIZ TIME: Test your knowledge of your neighborhood's history. Send your answers to our e-mail: editor@noe-valleyvoice.com. All those scoring 100 percent will be listed along with the answers in next month's April Fools Rumors.

1. This 285-foot-long Noe Valley alley was named after one of Noe Valley's first developers, who built many single family dwellings in the neighborhood during the 1880s and '90s.

2. Where was the Noe Theater? And

where was the Palmer Theater?

3. Where was Video Uno?

4. How long has Douglass Park been a park?

5. Where did Janis Joplin live in Noe Valley when she started singing with Big Brother and the Holding Company?

6. What was "Bud's I.C."?

7. Where was Dan's Gas and Diesel?

8. What is the name of the neighborhood located between Upper Noe Valley and Glen Park?

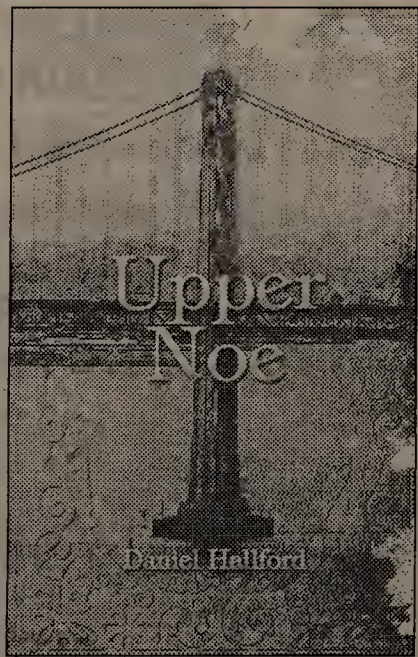
9. Who was the last San Francisco mayor to build a house in Noe Valley?

10. How many vacant stores were there on 24th Street between Diamond and Church on March 1, 2009?

That's all, you all. I look forward to all your answers. Ciao for now. ■



Now There's an Icon: Clipper Street resident James Berg generously donated this gold tabernacle, valued at more than \$10,000, to St. Nicolas Antiochian Russian Orthodox Church in Diamond Heights. Berg's friend Philip Wagner writes that the tabernacle "was made in the workshop of the late patriarch Alexy II and purchased after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was never used because of the difficult economic times there (not unlike what is going on in the United States now)." It is being used in services at St. Nicholas. Photo courtesy Philip Wagner



Upper Noe A Memoir

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Author of Pelican Bay

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E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685,
or Susan Levinson, 647-3007
E-mail: gary.norman@edwardjones.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for information.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

E-mail: dhic123@gmail.com
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of
January, March, May, July, September, and
November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501
Castro Street (upstairs)
Website: www.evpa.org

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is
held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN**Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyrie@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: E-mail or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a
screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m.,
departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.
For details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30
p.m. Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Gwen
Sanderson, 550-7577
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Tuesday of the month, Bank
of America, 4098 24th St. Check website
www.noevalleymerchants.com for time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
E-mail: mfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338;
Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
E-mail: events@seejanerun.com
Address: 3910 24th Street (at Sanchez)
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Website: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month,
Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and
Sanchez. 7:30 p.m.

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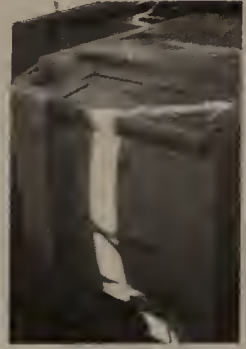
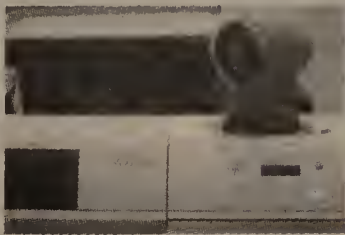
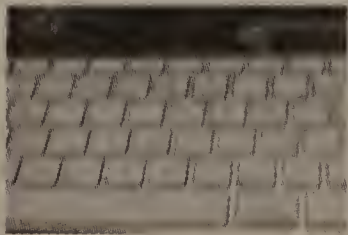
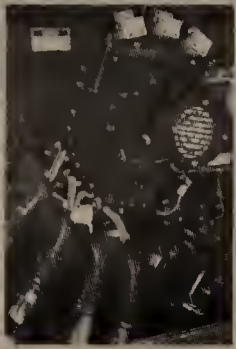
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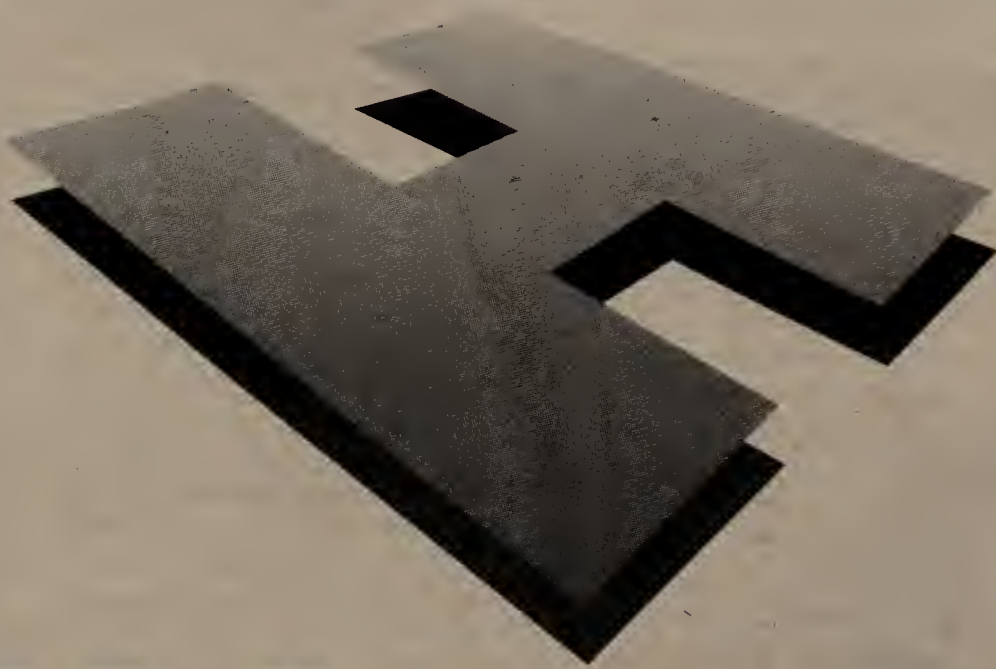
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Sunny Sounds. Sure there are vegetables and fruit aplenty for purchase at the Noe Valley Farmer's Market, but you also might meet your friends and enjoy some acoustic music while the youngsters play or snooze in the February sun.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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THE LAST PAGE

Poems

◆ MELISSA ANN SWEAT ◆

Weather like all things changeable
is only temporary

foggy somnambulant nest
with wisps of spider's web
pulled in patches
like cotton candy from the skein

kissing rooftops with one long wide kiss

you are a mother's evaporating breast
you are
a white-haired grandmother
turning over to die

Women in season

Walking down the street in San
Francisco, Spring had arrived on a
Saturday afternoon
And I heard a man say to his male friend:
I love this weather. *All the women are
out!*

Women, who had hunkered down in late
Summer, were now
Popping up pregnant like mushrooms.

And all the young ladies were wearing
sun dresses
Pretending, of course, like it is
no event to wear a dress in Spring...

To be a girl in a season once.

June lightning at night

My neighbor's dark faces light up in blue-
white.
Then purple. The flash spreading like
Hiroshima.

I picture Iran or North Korea
or some other sworn enemy,
dropping finally,
their bombs on us.

In my bed, I quail at the oncoming
dust cloud.

Once more, the flash races across the sky.
Rushing like a million thrashing bulls.

I can hear the neighbors stirring:
What is it? So close...

Setting off our car alarms,
We wake to imagined war.

Elsewhere, someone prays instead for
lightning.

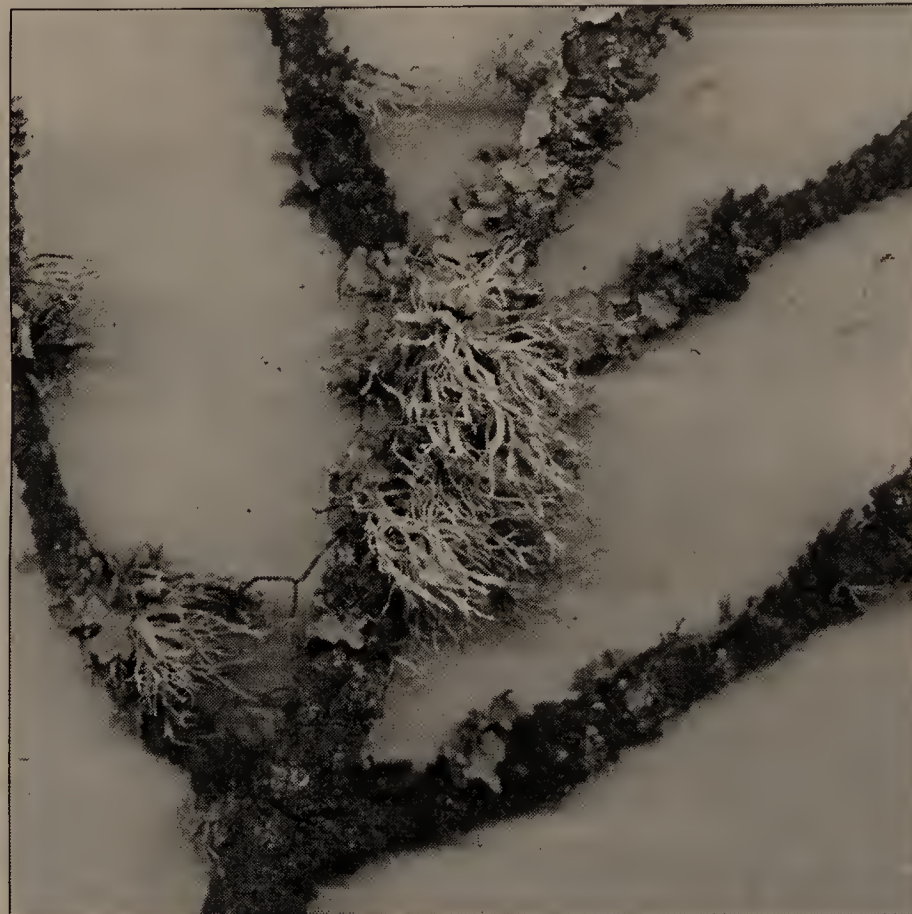


Photo: Jack Tipple

The unkempt hair of the intellectual

The unkempt hair of the intellectual,
thick and frowzy.
You could gather clump fulls of the
brown tufts
between your fingers.

I watch him read the paper
absorbing the day's digest of words and
images

and wonder:
What horrors of man made the pages
today?

What ink steeped in blood,
What justified lines seep into his heart

...through all that hair?

Arriving at the station we race downstairs
for the train.

He slips in, then I
just before the doors shut
clipping my coat.

"Phew," I say
and we laugh,
looking past our hot cheeks at the floor,
our hair all a mess.

In this moment, we are victorious—
by a few hot steps. By a dash.

In victory, my heart beats faster: from
the race,
from the laugh with a stranger,
despite the dead news in the paper.

Tending the Grave

Though our Flower's been plucked
We come because we must
We come because we must
dust the detritus off the cold wet grave.

An April rain has brought a splattering
of fresh black mud upon the stone.
Earth has kicked up soot and muck,
shaking itself like a soaked dog.

We came to wipe it clean,
to tend the grave
To bring a lei of fresh flowers
bought from the store.

*Precious Flower, this one.
What a precious blossom this one was.*

*Our sister. Our daughter.
Our precious one.*

Now, only the stone remains,
the earth, the grave
and our tending.

The meta-reality of calling "Taxi!"

Taxonomy was Adam's task.
To name the unnamed is the poet's
cause.

But an ordered conglomeration,
a measured ornamentation of signs and
letters
only approximates:
This sort of color. That sort of sound.

From Myanmar to donnybrook.
Each word is *hyperlinked*, historical,
mouth-full of severed tongues and wars.

War itself is a very old word, and *world*
even older. And as for *woman*, and
what came before...
They'd utter,

wuh wuh wuh
the sound of wanting more.

The first shall be last

art we could no longer make
us alone
standing on the bleached bald world

not even the universe could captivate us
all was suffering in the last days

there wasn't anything more to interpret
no myths or mysteries
we had demolished every page
of the old texts

and squeezed out our DNA

we are bloodless stones

we are death without a history

whoever comes next will not know our
names

MELISSA ANN SWEAT

Poet Melissa Ann Sweat presently
resides in San Jose, Calif., where she
was born. After winding through
several colleges and universities, Sweat
completed her bachelor's degree in
American Literature and Culture at UCLA
in 2006. In addition to writing, her
passions include creating art, music, and
short films. Currently, Sweat can be found
traveling (or not) via train across the United
States on the trip of her dreams. Where she
will settle after her journey has yet to be
determined. You can still reach her at
missmelissasweat@gmail.com or at
www.myspace.com/ladylazarusinthory.

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on the Last Page. Mail submissions, which should be no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want a manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.